



18.0 Pandemic Safety Plan

SCOPE: These guidelines apply to all Centre County Public Safety Training Center personnel, students, and test candidates whom have a potential for exposure to influenza, COVID or other infectious or communicable diseases during training and testing activities.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this document is to provide general guidelines to assist with minimizing exposure potential, contracting and / or spreading disease through risk reduction, prevention and mitigation of disease during any public safety training (fire, industrial, law enforcement, or EMS) and / or certification testing.

STATEMENT: This document has been developed for compliance with recommendations of the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) during a public health emergency to help mitigate the potential spread of communicable disease, flu, common cold, and other diseases. The Centre County Public Safety Training Center is committed to full compliance with applicable laws and regulations dealing with communicable and reportable diseases. The guideline will be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary based on revised guidelines and recommendations from the PA DOH and CDC.

DEFINITIONS:

Centre County Public Safety Training Center (CCPSTC) Personnel: Instructors, facilitators, evaluators, support staff, apparatus operators, routers, runners, observers that are on the fire or testing grounds. Observers will only be permitted on site for official and defined business such as potential customers, elected officials, etc.

Student: Any person who is there to take part in a class or instructional session.

Facilitator: A person designated as the facility representative during any training or certification test.

Candidate: Any person properly registered and prepared for a scheduled written or practical skill certification test.

Group size: A maximum of thirty (30) students or candidates and ten (10) other CCPSTC personnel can safely be accommodated within the facilities ensuring social distancing.

Hygiene practices: This includes handwashing, spatial cleansing between evolutions or testing scenarios, PPE management, etc. Handwashing stations will be made available throughout the site by the CCPSTC.

PPE: Personal protective equipment, specific to disease information and recommendations from PA DOH and the CDC. PPE may include masks (cloth, procedural, or air purifying respirators, gloves, gowns, faces shields, safety glasses or goggles, etc.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

During any endemic or pandemic public health emergency anyone who is ill, exhibits signs or express symptoms of being ill will not be permitted to participate with training and testing. A screening process (refer to APPENDIX B or APPENDIX C) will be conducted by the Centre County Public Safety Training Center (CCPSTC) that includes body temperature and recommended screening questions provided by the PA DOH and the CDC. The screening information will be captured by CCPSTC personnel or EMS if on site and maintained on site in a HIPPA compliant practice for any future needs such as contact tracing or other public health needs.

The dangers faced by emergency response personnel and the increased risk of exposure to potentially infectious materials are not always obvious therefore it is the responsibility of each person who participates in any public safety training or certification process to comply with the guidelines in this document. It will be the facilitator, test site coordinator, or designee to ensure compliance throughout the training evolutions or certification testing process.

To minimize exposure potential and control the potential spread of disease the CCPSTC personnel will routinely monitor data sources, such as the PA DOH web site for current information. Specifically, for COVID-19, the Coronavirus website will be used. Information reviewed from the reference(s) will include significant increase in incidence of new cases, new information regarding signs, symptoms, and other epidemiological characteristics. Based on the review, students, candidates, or CCPSTC personnel that originate in “high risk” areas will not be permitted on site until data suggests a reduced risk for that once designated high risk area. This will be an on-going risk assessment focused on available data, available recommendations, and considerations specific to the planned activities.

Safety briefings (refer to APPENDIX A) will be conducted for each training or certification test. These safety briefings will include a review of current recommendations for social distancing, the use of masks and other PPE, cleaning and hygiene practices.

Disinfection and cleaning processes will adhere to current recommendations from the PA DOH and CDC. Focus points of disinfecting and cleaning will include high traffic / common areas such as restrooms, classrooms, training props, apparatus and equipment, PPE, and self-contained breathing apparatus. All high touch spaces will be included with these focus points such as door handles / knobs, table tops, chair seats, any exposed horizontal surface. Disinfecting and cleaning will include the use of appropriately referenced cleaning agents at defined concentrations.

Social distancing will be practiced as much as practical and adhere to PA DOH and CDC recommendations where appropriate by all students, candidates, and personnel. As a rule of thumb, social distancing is at a minimal of six (6) feet. For student and candidate staging purposes, each student

or candidate will be provided a ten (10) foot by ten (10) foot square within the mock Fire Station (Station 82) to ensure social distancing requirements. In the event that a skill requires closer coordination appropriate PPE will be assigned. At no time will additional PPE interfere with student or candidate safety. The specific skill, high hazard operation, will be evaluated and a plan developed to ensure safety of students, candidates, and CCPSTC personnel.

Initial information and any future changes to recommendations or practices will be primarily communicated through the CCPSTC website, Facebook page, and email forms. Specific requirements for each training session or certification test will be provided to each candidate, instructor, evaluator, or other CCPSTC personnel in advance of the scheduled activity.

In the event that an exposure potential is identified, the CCPSTC Coordinator or designee will make appropriate notifications in a timely manner, coordinate with agencies as required, and document the notification and follow up process. Any documentation that is generated throughout this tracing and notification process will be maintained by the CCPSTC in accordance with appropriate privacy requirements. The situation may warrant the CCPSTC Coordinator to appoint a trained Infection Prevention and Control Officer to coordinate this tracing activity.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The assigned facilitator for each training or testing operation will be responsible to ensure all procedural expectations are implemented and maintained in an effective manner. If high hazard training or testing is being conducted these procedural expectations shall be shared with standby emergency medical services (EMS) providing coverage, care, and rehab. Capable EMS agencies that are willing to assist with these procedures shall assist the facilitator and safety officer with implementation and management.

It shall be the responsibility of the instructor or department training officer to ensure that social distancing, the utilization of PPE where recommended, and any department specific infection control practices are managed.

It is the responsibility of all students, candidates, and CCPSTC personnel to be forthcoming with pertinent health information that can have an impact on the overall safety of the training or testing evolutions. It is also everyone's responsibility to read, understand and comply with these expectations as outlined in this document.

TESTING AND CERTIFICATION PROCESS SPECIFIC PROCEDURES:

As required by the Certification Admin Manual, all candidates will be pre-registered and approved for scheduled testing. Notifications of acceptance will be provided by the CCPSTC Site Coordinator. As part of this notification, specific expectations and procedures will be outlined based on current recommendations from the PA DOH, the CDC, and elements of this document that are applicable.

Check in process for written testing shall include a screening process, identification validation, and appropriate instructions for assigned seating. The screening process will be conducted outside of the Mock fire station (Station 82) and will include body temperature and recommended questions from the PA DOH and CDC. Should any candidate not successfully complete the screening process they will be

informed to reschedule and not permitted to participate at the current time. As the screening process is performed, the candidate will show their photo ID to the CCPSTC personnel assigned to the check in process. After successfully completing the screening process, the candidate will be provided a sealed envelope with the candidate ID written on the outside with a pencil, testing material, ID verification statement, and evaluation forms and instructed to find their assigned table upon entry to the Mock fire station (Station 82) and not to open the envelope until the test proctor begins the written testing process. Each candidate will be seated at a six (6) foot table ensuring spatial separation as recommended. Upon completion of the written test, any appropriate evaluation material will be completed, all materials will be placed in the provided envelope, sealed and placed in a bin at the test proctor's location. As soon as the candidate places the envelope in the bin, they are requested to immediately leave the Mock fire station (Station 82).

Check in process for the practical skills test will include a screening process, identification validation, and appropriate instructions for PPE and candidate staging. A designated area outside of the Mock fire station (Station 82) will be set up for the screening process. The CCPSTC personnel assigned to check in process will oversee and ensure compliance with screening and ID validation. Each candidate will complete the screening process, if EMS is required due to the high hazard skills being tested, baseline vitals and other pertinent rehab information will be collected at this time. Upon completing the screening process, candidates will be instructed to find their assigned ten (10) foot by ten (10) foot area within the Mock fire station (Station 82) to stage PPE and other items (water, snacks, dry clothing, etc.) and stay within the assigned area until instructed otherwise. The test site coordinator or designee will ensure compliance of all candidates until the safety briefing is conducted and testing begins. The assigned router will ensure compliance throughout the testing process. Candidate safety briefings will be conducted in the Mock fire station (Station 82), evaluator and other CCPSTC personnel safety briefing will be conducted within the pavilion on the training grounds.

At the completion of each testing sequence the evaluator and when necessary the equipment runner will appropriately disinfect and clean the props, equipment, and apparatus as needed prior to the next candidate (s) being assigned.

Rehab will be conducted in a manner to ensure social distancing recommendations are achieved and diagnostic equipment used for the rehab process is properly disinfected and cleaned prior to next use.

Specific locations for handwashing stations and other related facilities will be outlined within the testing process manual and an site / facility map will be provided in the pavilion for evaluators and other CCPSTC personnel and in the Mock fire station (Station 82) for all candidates.

Masks and other recommended and required PPE will be worn by evaluators, candidates, and other CCPSTC personnel. Social distancing will be adhered to within each skill station when achievable.

DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL LEVEL TRAINING SPECIFIC PROCEDURES:

Department level training will be completed in adherence to the general requirements of this document as well as any additional requirements established by the hosting department. At minimum social distancing, a screening process, a safety briefing, and defined responsibility for oversight of these expectations shall be completed. If a student, a department training officer, or any other person

associated with the training evolution(s) fails the screening process, they will be required to leave the site and not permitted to participate. The CCPSTC facilitator assigned to the scheduled activity is responsible for overall implementation of the requirements of this document.

Local level training will be conducted in adherence to the general requirements of this document as well as any additional requirements established by the sponsoring educational training agency (ETA) if not sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology (CPI). The assigned CCPSTC facilitator will ensure all elements of this document are implemented effectively. If high hazard activities are being conducted and EMS is on site, the EMS agency may assist with implementation of this plan as well as providing coverage, care, and rehab. If the training program requires multiple sessions the screen in process and other elements of this plan should be implemented with each session.

APPENDIX A

Endemic and Pandemic specific elements to include with a safety briefing

- All Students, candidates, and personnel shall wear a mask when indoors and when not in a training or testing evolution.
- All student and instructors as well as candidates, evaluators and all personnel must follow the minimum six (6) foot rule for social distancing when achievable.
- All students, candidates, and CCPSTC personnel completed the screening process
- When not involved with a training or testing evolution all students / candidates must report to the assigned staging area.
- Students or candidates will report to the assigned skill stations when instructed to do so. Once completed students or candidates will return to the staging area. Instructors and evaluators will be expected to prepare the prop, skill area, or equipment, including proper cleansing.
- If at any time the facilitator witness anyone not following guide lines or if there is a complaint the offending person whether a student, candidate, or other CCPSTC personnel once verified will be requested to leave and discontinue participation.

APPENDIX B

Sample screening tool (single use)

Screening Card - REVISED

1. Have you traveled outside your community within the last 30 days?

If yes, where _____

When (beginning & end dates) _____

2. Have you traveled **inside or outside** the US in the past 14 days?

If yes, where _____

When (beginning & end dates) _____

3. Any of the following symptoms:

Fever greater than 100.4 **Cough** **Nausea**

Shortness of Breath **Vomiting**

Muscle pain **Severe Headache**

Stomach pain **Diarrhea**

Other Flu Like Symptoms

4. Contact with someone diagnosed/exposed to Coronavirus?

Yes No If yes, When _____

