

RC MERT Respiratory Safety Policy

Department of Operations

Fall 2015

Purpose:

- To ensure all RC MERT members are aware of the appropriate guidelines for practicing respiratory safety etiquette while on call.
- To develop a standardized system of respiratory protection for RC MERT crew members, University of Rochester Public Safety Officers, and patients during calls where potentially infectious respiratory problems are suspected.
- To ensure compliance with NYS-DOH Policy 13-05: **Respiratory Disease Precautions**, and all other county/state regulations regarding safety of EMS providers on call.

Scope:

- These guidelines apply to all RC MERT members while on duty.

Guidelines:

- During the evaluation of a patient with symptoms of a potentially infectious respiratory disease, RC MERT members should initiate the use of **Surgical Masks**
 - **Surgical masks** should first be placed on all RC MERT crew members and distributed to UR DPS officers on scene.
 - RC MERT members should then instruct the patient in proper donning and usage of **Surgical Mask** while on scene.
- RC MERT should request any transporting agencies be notified of any potential respiratory diseases immediately after suspicion of disease.
- In addition, RC MERT members should follow appropriate PPE guidelines (gloves, eye protection, gowns, etc.) if the call situation warrants usage.
- **Surgical Masks** should remain in place until the patient has been loaded for transport and taken from the scene.
 - **Surgical Masks** should be disposed of in a red biohazard bag and sealed.
- RC MERT members should practice quality hand-washing before returning to Vehicle 800.
- Following a call where respiratory disease was suspected, RC MERT members should clean all equipment present on the scene with Cavi-Wipes (if applicable). This includes cleaning of radios and vehicle steering wheel, door handles, etc.

References:

- NYS-DOH Policy 13-05: Respiratory Disease Precautions
 - <https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/policy/13-05.htm>