

BULLETIN

06-COVID-19

April 8, 2020

To: Authorized Employers of Community Peace Officers Level 1
Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch
Parks Enforcement Branch
Sheriffs Branch

Re: Recommendations for Immediate Action after Mucous/Saliva Exposure Occurs from Someone Who is Known to be COVID-19 Positive

Alberta Health Services have provided the following information and guidance for law enforcement.

COVID-19 is transmitted by droplet spread from a cough or a sneeze.

- The droplets must either be breathed in or land on the person's mouth/nose or eyes.
- You can also get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching your own mouth, nose, or eyes.
- After exposure, it takes 1-14 days before symptoms develop.
- If a patient tests positive for COVID-19, Alberta Health Services will follow up with contacts of that individual – including law enforcement that may have been in close proximity while they were experiencing symptoms.
- Alberta Health Services does detailed contact tracing of all COVID-19 cases. This means that if it was identified that a case was in police custody while contagious, Alberta Health Services would be in contact with enforcement agencies to advise of any necessary steps for officers who were in contact with that case.
- This process means that you do not need to self-isolate if you assist an individual who is experiencing symptoms, unless you are directed to by public health, or unless you begin to exhibit symptoms.

Recommendations for immediate action after mucous/saliva exposure occurs from someone who is known to be COVID-19 positive:

- Report exposure to your Occupational Health and Safety Officer/Workplace Health and Safety team.
- The area should be cleaned immediately.
- The skin is a natural defense against COVID-19; exposures on intact skin are very low risk. Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Clean and disinfect duty belt and gear prior to reuse using a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the product label.
- Clothes should be immediately laundered.

- If the exposure was on the face, contact Alberta Health Services at 811 for advice. You may be asked to quarantine and monitor for symptoms for 14 days after the exposure.
- If you develop symptoms within the quarantine period or after an exposure, follow the directions of public health or complete the online self-assessment tool available from Alberta Health Services (<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-ncov-2019-traveller-guidance.pdf>).

Recommended daily personal actions for prevention:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often throughout the day for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Carry skin-cleaning wipes and hand sanitizer for when soap and water are not available.
- Carry face shields in cars and don them for reported COVID positive interactions.
- The most important thing you can do to protect others is stay home if you become sick.

Sincerely,

Sean Bonneteau, CD
Director
Law Enforcement Standards and Audits