



# Homeland Security

## **COVID-19 Exposure and Risk Mitigation Best Practices for Law Enforcement**



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**Collaborators: The Office of Partnership and Engagement**

**Collaborators: The Office for State and Local Law Enforcement**

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# Homeland Security

April 7, 2020

Dear Law Enforcement Partners:

America has always asked a lot of its law enforcement officers—and we have always risen to the challenge. Today, as we are in the midst of an unprecedented public health crisis, America has asked law enforcement to dig deeper, continue serving our communities, and to do so in the face of a new and evolving threat. While the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating impacts are very real, particularly for our state and local law enforcement who are experiencing increased infections and loss of life, there are some relatively simple steps that law enforcement administrators and officers can take to ensure the maximum protection possible, given circumstances.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) strives to provide its state, local, tribal, and campus law enforcement partners with the latest tools, information, and resources to aid them in protecting their communities. Today, we release the *COVID-19 Exposure and Risk Mitigation Best Practices Resource Guide*. The *COVID-19 Exposure and Risk Mitigation Best Practices Resource Guide* is a one-stop shop providing resources and guidance to law enforcement on topics related to the mitigation of risk and exposure to COVID-19 while performing official law enforcement duties. This document summarizes and provides links to training, publications, and programs available to our law enforcement partners. We aim to support the protection of not only the officers, but their families, and the communities they serve.

It is important to note that this interim guidance has been compiled and disseminated quickly in order to meet the demand. The resource guide is compiled of evidence-based approaches from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and best practices from law enforcement agencies across the country. However, as this crisis evolves each day and as more evidence-based information becomes available, this guidance is subject to change.

We're proud to stand with you, shoulder to shoulder, as we work each day to bring us through these unprecedented times. We're stronger together. If you cannot find what you are searching for in this resource guide, please do not hesitate to contact the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement for additional assistance at [OSLLE@HQ.DHS.GOV](mailto:OSLLE@HQ.DHS.GOV).

Sincerely,

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Senior Medical Officer – Operations  
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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# Exposure Levels and Risk Assessment

The below resources are provided to inform law enforcement of the COVID-19 “Exposure Risk Categories” to include definitions and what constitutes an individual being either high, medium, or low risk. The resources below will help provide a framework for understanding personnel risk. It is important for law enforcement to first understand the levels of exposure and then be able to assess and evaluate their level of risk to potential exposures. This will not only keep the law enforcement workforce safe, but additional the communities that they serve.

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Defining Exposure Risk Category



Risk Definitions.pdf

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This interim guidance is for guidance on assessment and management of exposure risk in non-healthcare settings.

[Click Here](#)

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Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities. This interim guidance is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as of March 23, 2020. This document provides interim guidance specific for correctional facilities and detention centers during the outbreak of COVID-19, to ensure continuation of essential public services and protection of the health and safety of incarcerated and detained persons, staff, and visitors.

[Click Here](#)

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What law enforcement personnel need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

[Click Here](#)

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# Personal Protective Equipment for Law Enforcement

The below resources will provide insight on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and related topics. PPE is used daily by law enforcement officers to protect themselves, those they interact with while performing official duties, and others within the community. PPE can help protect law enforcement from potentially infectious individuals and materials, surfaces, and other potentially dangerous substances they may come across while ensuring public safety.

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Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

[Click Here](#)

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Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE and Equipment

[Click Here](#)

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Safety recommendations for emergency responders who may come into contact with an individual with COVID-19. The chart explains proper protective measures like a PPE checklist and do's-and-dont's for emergency responders and public health professionals dealing with COVID-19

[Click Here](#)

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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Burn Rate Calculator is a spreadsheet-based model that provides information for facilities to plan and optimize the use of PPE for response to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Similarly, non-healthcare facilities (e.g., correctional facilities) may find this tool useful for planning and optimizing PPE use as part of the response to COVID-19. This tool can also be used for planning PPE use outside the context of COVID-19, where PPE shortages may also occur due to supply chain issues related to the COVID-19 response (e.g. manufacturing facilities).

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[Click Here](#)

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# Mitigating Risk Through Altered Tactics and Procedures

The below resources are provided to support law enforcement with training and practical strategies to mitigate exposure risk by altering the tactics and procedures while still maintaining a comprehensive and manageable public safety posture. While enforcement under COVID-19 constraints is novel it is also necessary for the protection of the officer and the community.

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[LSU NCBRT/ACE](#) has developed a Free COVID-19 Roll Call Training, that [Click Here](#) consists of an 18-minute training video and a job aid, for law enforcement that addresses officer safety during the COVID-19 outbreak. The training provides information on how officers can keep themselves safe before, during, and after contact with others in the course of their job. It also addresses steps officers can take at the end of a shift to go home safely. Fill out the training materials request form and the materials will be sent to you immediately

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[LSU NCBRT/ACE](#) Law Enforcement Job aid



COVID-19 Roll-Call  
Job Aid.pdf

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# Exposure Guidance and Decision-Making Tools

The below resources are provided to support law enforcement leadership and officer's decision making when coming in contact with or potentially coming in contact with the virus COVID-19. All persons should recognize that symptoms can develop at any time without a *known* exposure, often several days after the exposure occurred. Care should be taken at all times to self-monitor while there is person-to-person spread within our community. These guidelines were developed from Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and are subject to change based on individual circumstances, available science, best practices, and the changing needs of the department.

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The Dallas Police Department Exposure and Return to Work Algorithms



DPD Exposure and  
Return To Work Alg

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This package of guidance is intended for leadership, medical officers, and supervisor interpretation and application to operational use, as appropriate. It was provided as a department-wide minimum guideline expected to be tailored as needed and is meant to assist with decision-making for workforce management to ensure mission continuity during this complex, novel, and evolving pandemic. The following guidance is included: management decision tree, return-to-work guidance, mission-critical, location dependent guidance



COVID-19 WHS  
Leadership Guidanc

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Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

[Click Here](#)

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Public Health Recommendations after Travel-Associated COVID-19 Exposure

[Click Here](#)

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Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 (Interim Guidance)

[Click Here](#)

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