



To our Germantown and German Township Residents:

As we get further into the COVID-19 pandemic event, it is likely the number of 911 calls requesting EMS services will increase and very possibly stress our available emergency resources. Germantown Fire-EMS along with surrounding jurisdictions, hospital networks and physicians are preparing and responding to this pandemic.

WE ASK AND NEED ALL OF YOU TO DO YOUR PART: practice SOCIAL DISTANCING- maintain 6 feet separation from other persons, WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY with soap and water. Avoid touching your face, only go out for essential items, and stay away from those who are sick.

IF YOU ARE SICK, during this public health emergency, we are asking citizens to **contact your primary care physicians, urgent care centers, or use telemedicine** for routine and other non-life threatening conditions, rather than calling 911 to request Emergency Medical Service or going to emergency rooms.

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms such as a cough, fever and mild difficulty breathing, **call your healthcare provider for medical advice**. Most people who get COVID-19 will have mild symptoms and will recover fine staying home. Going to an Emergency Department may actually increase your chance for exposure to illness.

You can help to limit community spread and reduce the possibility of infecting *your first responders*, healthcare providers and those persons at higher risk like older adults and persons who are already immune system compromised- by STAYING AT HOME and practicing SOCIAL DISTANCING and frequent washing of hands.

IF YOU DEVELOP EMERGENCY SYMPTOMS FOR COVID-19 such as: severe difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in your chest, bluish lips or face, new onset of confusion or the inability to arouse, call 911. Be certain to inform the dispatcher that you are experiencing flu-like or respiratory symptoms. IF possible, the patient should try to meet the crew at the front door to reduce exposure to EMS crew. Other persons inside the home should maintain a six foot distance from your first responders. The EMS crew will ask the person to put on a procedure mask to aid in preventing transmission of the disease and protect those around them.

In order to provide effective patient care and reduce the risk of contamination of EMS crews and ambulances, the EMS crew will only allow family members or support persons to be transported with the patient *when it is essential to patient care*. All other requests for riders to accompany patient will be denied.

If we all work together- *by staying apart*- practice social distancing, washing hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds, staying away from those who are sick and staying home, not out in public- we can help to flatten the curve and do our part to not overwhelm our local health care systems.

Your Germantown Fire-EMS First Responders very much appreciate your efforts in helping control the spread of COVID19. THANK YOU! Stay Safe and Healthy.

