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Information for Seldovia

March 24, 2020

Transport to Homer:

In anticipation of the need to transport patients who may be experiencing [emergency warning signs](#) or serious complications from the COVID-19 virus the Seldovia Volunteer Fire & EMS Department (SVFD), in consultation with their Medical Director and the City Administration, has been working with local transportation providers to develop medical evacuation protocols. These procedures seek to minimize additional risk of infection to responders and the public while safely and as efficiently as possible transporting patients to treatment.

When transporting patients, a volunteer of the SVFD EMS provider accompanies the patient until care is transferred to another medical provider. We anticipate being able to continue this service to ensure ongoing care and safety of our patients.

Generally, if an individual is experiencing non-critical symptoms of COVID-19 infection, they should contact their medical provider. If EMS is activated for a COVID-19 symptomatic patient, if possible, the EMS providers will keep the recommended social spacing and provide a surgical mask to be worn by the patient to limit the transmission of the virus. Evaluation will be done in conjunction with medical providers to assess the need for transport.

Mako's Water Taxi has agreed to the transportation of potential COVID-19 patients with additional safety measures. These require the use of personal protective equipment and that patients and responders be transported outside the vessel cabin. Additional local vessels have been identified that may be used in a similar fashion if other options are not available. Patients should prepare for weather and every effort will be made to make the patients as comfortable as possible.

Currently the air ambulance service, LifeMed Alaska, will transport potential COVID-19 patients in need of critical care. They have service limitations based on weather and availability and may not be able to immediately transport. We encourage everyone to review the [membership guidelines](#) and consider obtaining this insurance for you and your family.

At this time, the local airlines will provide their usual service in transporting non-critical ambulatory patients that do not have COVID-19 symptoms. They have restricted transport of symptomatic patients to protect their staff, the public, and to limit the spread of the virus to other communities.

SVFD EMS has gathered additional equipment and personal protective gear that will be utilized in the transport of potential COVID-19 patients. We continue to evaluate the situation as this evolves and as first responders, we appreciate your support and efforts to minimize the spread of this infection. The City of Seldovia's [Facebook Page](#) will be updated with additional information about the local and State-wide response as it becomes available.