Local Agencies Respond to COVID-19 in Larimer County

COVID-19 has been in the headlines for weeks, but the news of it close to home creates the need for a local response. All Poudre Fire Authority (PFA) firefighters are certified emergency medical technicians and respond to medical calls every day. As such, firefighters may provide care to a person known to have the virus or potentially carrying it. Fire Chief Tom DeMint, EMS Battalion Chief Kevin Waters, and other PFA leadership have updated protocols to keep our responders safe so they can continue to help keep the community safe. PFA is also suspending public education events such as school visits, station tours and community room reservations. “We will continually reassess in response to the potential spread of the virus and needs of the community,” said Fire Marshall Jerry Howell.

In coordination with Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA) and FC911, a new series of questions have been implemented to identify the possibility of risk factors for COVID-19. As of 8 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3, callers experiencing fever, cough or shortness of breath are asked about their travel history within the past 14 days, and if they have been in contact with anyone known to have COVID-19 within the last 14 days. This will help first responders be prepared to provide the care needed while also protecting themselves.

PFA has established new protocols and personal protection equipment requirements when responding to someone that may have the virus and is working closely with other public health and safety agencies. “We are prepared and continue to prepare for this ever evolving issue of COVID-19, as it impacts not just our department, but our state, our nation and the world,” said Fire Chief Tom DeMint.

Safety Message
While this virus is contagious, it is also highly survivable and can be avoided. Slowing the spread of COVID-19 is within the power of the community and everyone plays a part. Be honest with yourself, your healthcare provider and FC911 should you experience symptoms. Look to our partners Larimer County Department of Health and Environment for timely updates, local information and ways to protect yourself. They also provide specific information for older adults and those with underlying health issues.

Stop the Spread
1. Stay home if you are sick. Stay home until your fever is gone for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine.
2. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing. If you don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
3. Don’t touch your face with unwashed hands (especially eyes, mouth and nose).
4. Disinfect communal surfaces (phones, door knobs, handles, counter tops, etc.)