



**Regional Emergency Medical Organization  
Office of the Medical Director**



**1653 CENTRAL AVENUE • ALBANY NY 12205-4092  
(518) 464-5097  
FAX (518) 464-5099  
WEBSITE: [www.remo-ems.com](http://www.remo-ems.com)**

ADVISORY 2009 – 02.2

## PROTECTING OUR PROVIDERS – RESPIRATORY PRECAUTIONS

People calling 911 with complaints of fever and cough, potentially pose a hazard to both responding personnel and emergency departments. As a result, please take the following steps:

- Request more information from dispatchers when sent to respiratory, sick person and fever related calls if limited initial information is provided upon dispatch.
- Initial interview of the patient should be from at least 6 feet away to determine if personal protective equipment precautions are necessary.
- Recommended PPE for taking care of potentially infected patients includes: disposable gowns, gloves, goggles/face shields and N95 masks.
- At a minimum, N95 masks must be worn any time caring for a patient with fever and cough.
- Place a mask on all patients with suspected symptoms, or non-rebreather masks when oxygen is required.
- Alert receiving hospital personnel of the possibility of an infectious patient as soon as possible. Hold suspected infectious patients in the ambulance until they have been assigned a room, rather than immediately moving them into the emergency room.
- Perform a thorough cleaning of the stretcher and all equipment that has come in contact with or been within 6 feet of the patient with an approved disinfectant, upon completion of the call.
- Practice good hand washing techniques and wash hands following every patient encounter and when possible while working.