



**NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Health Service Regulation

**ROY COOPER** • Governor  
**MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH** • Secretary  
**MARK PAYNE** • Director

March 13, 2020

NC Emergency Management Directors  
NC PSAP Managers  
NC EMS Agency Administrators  
NC Fire Chiefs  
NC Sheriffs  
NC Police Chiefs

RE: First Responder Preparedness and Mitigation Initiatives – COVID-19

To our local first response partners:

The NC Office of EMS, NC Office of State Fire Marshal, NC Sheriff's Association, NC Association of Police Chiefs, NC Department of Information Technology – 911 Board, and NC Division of Emergency Management, are all working closely to ensure all first responder agencies are receiving timely and complete information on how to best be prepared for the COVID-19 response. By working together, we can ensure that we are all prepared to support one another and mitigate the impacts of the potential for widespread transmission of COVID-19 throughout the state.

It is imperative for us all to implement basic infection prevention controls as well as mitigation strategies to minimize the impacts to the critical services we all provide. The attached guidance documents should help provide specific checklists to aid in agency preparedness and protection of first responders as well as ask specific questions and considerations to aid in community planning. Please share the attached guidance documents with your staff to help ensure we are all doing everything we can to keep everyone informed.

Please ensure you communicate your needs to your local emergency management office to ensure we maintain the highest level of services to our citizens and visitors of this state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Mitchell".

Tom Mitchell  
Chief, Office of Emergency Medical Services

Enclosures: 3

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION**  
**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

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