



HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES DIVISION

Patrol Functions and potential impact of COVID-19:

The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Enforcement Services Division, Patrol and Water Patrol, would adhere to the below protocols with regard to patrol functions during a large outbreak of COVID-19.

Identified Functions Critical to Patrol Operations

The staffing levels listed below are necessary to fulfill the mandated and contractual obligations of the Patrol Unit on a 24/7 basis:

- Command Staffing –8 hours per day
- Sergeant Staffing - provide 24/7 supervision (1 sergeant minimum per shift)
- Deputy Staffing – deputies on 12-hour shifts
- Support Staff –8 hour shifts

Social Distancing Plan

Due to the nature of the work-related activities performed by Patrol Unit personnel, it will be difficult to implement strict social distancing protocols. However, all Patrol Unit personnel will be provided information regarding methods of limiting potential exposure to the Coronavirus when they interact with the public and other personnel. These instructions will include:

Face-to-Face: In face-to-face meetings, individuals should limit contact. Participants should practice staying about three (6) feet apart.

Preventative Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Personal Protection Measures

To help limit any potential exposure to the Coronavirus, the unit will maintain (or have access to) a supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including:

- Disposable N-95 Masks
- Disposable Surgical Masks
- Disposable Nitrile Gloves
- Hand Sanitizer Dispensers (Individual Use)
- Disinfectant Wipes (Vionex)
- Sanitizing Wipes (Purell)



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Other Considerations

Patrol Unit personnel will be encouraged to obtain additional information regarding pandemic related topics by visiting the following websites:

- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- <https://www.osha.gov/>

How to engage with potential sick residents:

The Hennepin County Emergency Communications Center (Dispatch) has developed, with input from area emergency medical responders, a list of protocols that they will put in service when it is determined that first responders, deputies and officers, could come into contact with potential pandemic related sick individuals. Deputies and officers will evaluate the call type and determine if the call will be left to medical first responders only or if they will respond. If deputy or officer response is necessary, the above social distancing and protective measures will be used.

Traffic stops with drivers wearing masks:

If deputies encounter individuals wearing masks during a traffic stop protective protocols will be initiated. Social Distancing can be used such as speaking through a partially opened window to gather enough information to continue with the stop while maintain proper officer safety. The deputy will ask the driver/occupant of the vehicle why they are wearing a mask. Disposable gloves shall be worn to handle any documents from the driver or occupant of the vehicle when the deputy sees a necessity. Proper disinfection protocols will be initiated after the stop.

Response to calls for service:

If deputy response has been determined the deputy shall use all of the above-mentioned protocols during the call for service. Social Distancing and Protective measures will be used. If a deputy is determined to have been exposed to COVID-19 the deputy will immediately inform their supervisor and begin disinfection/sanitizing measures while limiting exposures to other staff members.

Staffing shortages:

Redundancy Plan for Key Staff Positions

In the event that staffing is reduced by 40-50%, the Patrol Unit currently has sufficient trained and qualified personnel to continue performing most work-related functions (although capacity



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would be greatly reduced). Schedules and shifts could be temporarily changed to accommodate adequate staffing levels.

Diverting PD's from bringing low-level offenders in the event of a full-blown outbreak in the jail:

The Hennepin County Public Safety Facility (Jail) always prefers citation in lieu of booking when possible due to constant high levels of jail population. During an outbreak of COVID-19 this practice will be strictly enforced prior to law enforcement being admitted into the jail garage to book their individual in custody. Anyone that is being brought into the jail for booking will go through an interview process by jail staff prior to being accepted to the jail and booking process. If the individual to be booked is found to have potential illness issues the medical director will be summoned to the jail garage to make the determination if the individual will be booked into the jail or denied and told to be taken to a medical facility.