

# **Illinois Search and Rescue** **COVID-19 Response and Training Guidelines**

## **Response Expectations**

The Board understands that members may or may not want to respond at this time and we support your decision. Before you respond to a search or rescue, please make sure to carefully consider your current health and recent travel in your calculations about whether to respond. If you are feeling unwell in any way, but in particular, if you have any of the following concerning symptoms, you should not respond to a mission:

- FEVER - Measured
- NEW/INCREASED COUGH
- NEW MUSCLE ACHES OR JOINT PAIN/STIFFNESS not attributable to another medical condition or injury
- SORE THROAT
- SHORTNESS OF BREATH • ABDOMINAL PAIN and/or DIARRHEA
- INCREASED FATIGUE
- DECREASED SENSE OF TASTE OR SMELL

Additionally, please carefully consider whether it is appropriate to take part in a mission if:

- You have (or are caring for someone who has) a pre-existing medical history including but not limited to immune system disorder, cardiac or respiratory medical history,
- You are over the age of 65,
- You recently had contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or
- You have recently been to an area experiencing a high number of COVID-19 cases (an exception to this would be a medical health worker utilizing appropriate PPE in their work environment).

## **Physical Distancing Procedures**

- Physical distancing guidelines dictate SAR personnel should maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from any other individual who does not live in their household at all times.
- Personnel will don appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and efforts will be made to maximize personal space and ventilation, while also minimizing the number of people exposed. A simple fabric facemask is sufficient.
- Check-ins will be accomplished under a tent canopy outside of the trailer, where possible.
- When riding in transport vehicles and social distancing cannot be accomplished, wear a face mask.

## **Trainings and Meetings**

- Teams are encouraged to use online video conference format for trainings if possible.
- Until further guidance is received to the contrary, training sessions attended by fewer than 50 members in an outdoor setting are assumed to be acceptable, as long as physical distance and PPE guidelines are followed.
- Course participants will maintain proper social distancing (6 ft minimum) in the classroom portion and be properly masked per state guidelines for indoor events.
- Instructors will be able to be at the front of the classroom with a minimum social distance of 10 ft and not wear a mask. This is due to being able to project their voice in a teaching situation. If this distance cannot be maintained for an in-classroom demonstration, then a mask should be worn.
- For field demonstrations that are closer than the 6 ft minimum social distance, a mask should be worn, for those demonstrations.