

PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

Westhampton EMS Response Related to COVID-19

During these uncertain times of the COVID-19 outbreak, Westhampton EMS is committed to continue to respond to any medical emergencies in town. When a 911 call is made, the dispatchers at the State Police Barracks will, through a series of questions, screen the call to determine if a possible COVID-19 situation exists. If the dispatcher determines that there is a possible virus environment, responding EMS will be notified to take the necessary precautions as stated in our protocols.

As EMTs or First Responders arrive on the scene, one person will knock on the door and wait for someone to answer. When they do, we will stand back at a safe distance and verbally assess the patient, gathering pertinent information and assuring them that the ambulance will arrive shortly. We will remain outside until the ambulance arrives. If the situation requires us to go inside the house, one person will put on our required protective gear: gloves, face mask, eye protection, and (possibly) gowns. We will also provide a face mask for the patient.

If it is determined that the call is not COVID-19 related, we will respond as we always have taking the necessary precautions against any type of contamination. Even in a non COVID-19 environment, the number of responders entering the house will be kept to a minimum to conduct patient assessment, gather information and obtain and record basic vital statistics. We will also provide a face mask for the patient if they don't already have one. Others present are encouraged to wear a mask if they have one as well and maintain social distancing guidelines as recommended by the CDC. We feel that this is the best way to protect both ourselves as first responders and the patient we are there to help.

Westhampton Fire Department Response during COVID-19

As we are all aware and concerned in these uncertain times, please be assured that the Westhampton Fire Department is committed to serving the Town of Westhampton for their emergency related calls in whatever form they may come in.

We will continue to respond in the best capacity possible and will take every step necessary to keep both the public and our first responder's safe during this time. Our responses have been modified so that we provide both the service needed, and protect the public and the first responders. There is also tremendous support from our neighboring departments regarding communications and mutual aid when needed.

Thank you for your attention in following the guidelines to help mitigate our town's exposure, and stay safe.