

LASD - Department Operations Center



COVID-19

DOC Duty and Responsibility Reminder

The Department Operations Center will remain open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week until further notice.

The DOC will assist with resources and information dissemination related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic.

The DOC shall be notified of all COVID-19 related incidents effecting the Department.

Special Attention to Unit Commanders:

Each Unit Commander is responsible to address operations within their respective area of responsibility (AOR), including, but not limited to disturbances at warehouse/high volume stores, school disturbances, hospitals, markets, gas stations, etc.

Please ensure all personnel within your chain of command have been notified.

For additional information see previously released email below: COMMAND MEETING NOTES: LASD COVID-19 READINESS, or contact the DOC.

COMMAND MEETING NOTES LASD COVID-19 READINESS

(03/10/20)

On March 4, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency in response to the increased spread of the COVID-19 across the nation and globally. As of March 9, 2020, there have been 157 confirmed COVID-19 cases reported across the State of California, with 20 confirmed cases in Los Angeles County. In order to effectively coordinate County resources to assist the community, the County Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) was activated to a "Level II," with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) as the "lead agencies." The Sheriff's Department is on the leadership team within the CEOC and directing public safety assets as needed.

The meeting focused on information to address the Department's top priority of providing for the health and safety of our personnel and the community.

WORKPLACE

In order to most effectively serve the community, the Department must first ensure appropriate health and safety precautions are exercised internally. The Sheriff's Department has issued safety bulletins developed by the CDC and DPH to provide

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guidance on how to protect our personnel, identify symptoms, and prevent spread of the virus. Unit Commanders shall ensure that all personnel under their command are briefed extensively regarding recommendations made by the CDC and DPH to protect themselves and family members. Unit Commanders should take extra steps to ensure their facilities are systematically cleaned and sanitized. Routinely clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops and door knobs, and provide disposable disinfectant wipes to sanitize common areas and work stations before each use.

If an employee is ill, it is recommended the employee be directed to stay home until they are no longer ill. If they exhibit the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, they should consult their physician for specific medical instruction.

EOB conducted an inventory and determined there is an adequate supply of N-95 masks readily available for our personnel. Through this process, it was also confirmed that most units have an ample supply of N-95 masks and latex gloves on hand. The recommendation is to store additional masks in the Field Sergeants' vehicles so they are readily available in the field. Unit commanders who do not have an ample supply of N95 masks should immediately contact EOB to receive additional masks. The Department has already requested additional "Communicable Disease Kits" containing a mask, eye protection, gown, cap, bio-hazard bag, hand wipes, gloves and booties in the unlikely event of a more severe outbreak.

CDC recommends wearing equipment when contacting someone with:

- a confirmed coronavirus infection
- a suspected coronavirus infection

OPERATIONAL PLANNING AND CONTINGENCIES

Each unit commander is responsible to address operations within their respective area of responsibility (AOR). As with managing any incident, it is important to notify EOB if you require resources beyond the capability of your unit. If necessary, EOB will activate the Department Operations Center (DOC) to coordinate resources requested by the incident commander.

CDC and health experts indicate the people most vulnerable to a COVID-19 outbreak are the elderly, and people with existing medical conditions. With the extremely contagious nature of COVID-19 and the unsanitary conditions of homeless encampments, this places our large homeless population who are frequently unable to care for themselves in a severely vulnerable position. Unit commanders shall work with DPH, DMH and local homeless experts to identify homeless encampments and develop

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contingency plans in the event of an outbreak. Plans should include coordination with DPH, OEM, DMH and the Countywide Homeless Initiative to identify potential locations for triage or isolation as directed by health professionals. The Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) is available to assist units in identifying locations populated with homeless individuals, and connecting them to the appropriate providers within a respective AOR.

Units should prepare to address circumstances unique to their AOR, including but not limited to, school closures, court shut-downs, hospital quarantine or isolation policy, disturbances at business establishments such as warehouse stores, or other circumstances.

Each unit should have a Continuity of Operations Plan's (COOP) to ensure their essential functions continue to be performed during or after a disruption of normal activities. Plans should specifically include the possibility of a significant number of personnel being unavailable due to illness, and/or reassignment. Each unit will have a different set of essential functions based upon their daily mission (ie custody, patrol, specialized unit etc).

In relation to COOP planning, each unit commander should begin to identify positions that require personnel to be physically present (ie minimum staffing) in the event staffing is significantly reduced. CDC and DPH have recommended allowing sick employees the ability to telecommute when appropriate. COOP Plans should be communicated through the chain of command.

DPH officials may request law enforcement personnel to assist at a location(s) where suspected infected patient(s) or individual(s) who have come into contact with the virus. In these instances, Department personnel should be briefed by DPH at a specified safe location, reason for the contact and what, if any, PPE will be required. If Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) is required, DPH will provide Department personnel an appropriate amount of PPE.

In the event of a disturbance, Sheriff's Department is prepared to address civil unrest. The Department Operations Center (DOC) has the capability, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to activate two (2) Platoons of Mobile Field Force (MFF). In addition to the MFF, the Department has four (4) platoons of "Sheriff's Response Team" (SRT). There is always one (1) SRT Team on call for deployment. The SRT can be deployed on both planned events and emergent incidents, keeping in mind the SRT can take up to four (4) hours to respond to an emergency. The SRT is not only capable of traditional crowd control situations, but the entire realm of civil disobedience including:

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- Passive resistance lift and carries
- Active resistance separation
- Mass arrest capability
- Confrontation / Dispersal / Arrest of violent agitator groups
- Disentanglement operations
- WMD mass decontamination operations
- Jail rioting response
- Counter terrorism Vital Infrastructure & Force Protection

Custody Division has developed and implemented their COVID-19 operational plans and contingencies.

EOB is available 24 hours a day to coordinate any resources needed to support the incident command structure of the Department, including any circumstances related to the COVID-19 emergency.

The Sheriff directed that all non-essential public events administered by LASD, such as Town Hall Meetings, social events etc, be rescheduled pending further information from health professionals. Additionally, non-essential travel such as training, conferences should be rescheduled. Training Bureau will limit formal training/classroom settings to basic training such as academy, patrol school etc.

Pending further notification, EOB will conduct a weekly LASD COVID-19 Conference Call to keep all captains and above up to date regarding COVID-19 information. EOB will send weekly calendar invites for call-information (set for Tuesdays at 1500 hours).