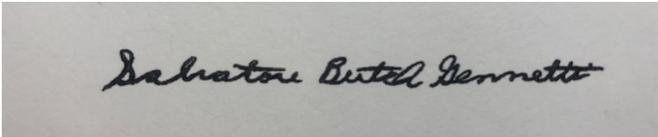
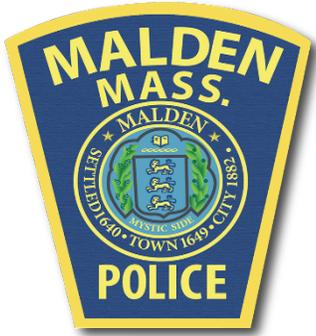


# MALDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDICAL AIDS/SUDDEN DEATH PROTOCOL COVID-19 RESPONSE

Massachusetts police accreditation standards referenced:		<b>GENERAL ORDER</b> ----- <b>POLICY NUMBER:</b> <b>004</b>
<u>Effective Date:</u> <b>04/06/2020</b> <b>Total Pages: 3</b>	<i>ISSUING AUTHORITY</i> <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> Police Commissioner  <b>Salvatore "Butch" Gennetti</b>	

## MEDICAL AIDS AND SUDDEN DEATH PROTOCOL – COVID-19 RESPONSE

In an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus dispatch should follow the protocols for medical aids issued by the Patrol Commander.

### Protocol for Police Response to a Known or Suspected Case of COVID-19

1. Upon receipt of information relative to a medical aid, Malden Operations will transfer the call to Cataldo Ambulance personnel and Malden Fire (PSAP Operators must stay on the line for the duration of the call). Cataldo operators will ask the appropriate questions to screen the caller to determine the nature of the medical aid.
  
2. If Cataldo Ambulance operators suspect that there are signs or symptoms of a possible COVID-19 patient, they will let it be known to police and fire dispatchers.
  
3. Dispatch one cruiser to the location of the call. Officers should park at a safe distance. Upon arrival, the officer will don rubber gloves. Officers will not enter the residence (unless the patient is violent or otherwise needs to be controlled). Cataldo personnel will mask the patient forthwith.

Maintain a presence outside the residence. Please stay in your cruiser and inform dispatch when you are clearing the call. Dispatch will contact Cataldo to collect the patient information. Dispatch will then add the info to the CAD.

If the call is received on a phone line that cannot be transferred to Cataldo and the MFD, ask the following questions and inform both Cataldo and MFD of the responses.

1. Does s/he have a cough, difficulty breathing or fever?
2. Has s/he received a positive or presumed positive test for Coronavirus?
3. Has s/he been in contact with anyone who received a positive or presumed positive test for Coronavirus?
4. Are you or anyone at the residence under quarantine for COVID-19?

If the answer is yes to any of them, MPD officers will respond but stay in their cruisers. Dispatch will contact Cataldo for patient information and hospital location. This information will be placed in the CAD by dispatch.

Police officers must continue to treat life threatening emergencies as a primary response. No greater responsibility exists than preservation of life.

All police officers and supervisors need to be aware for the potential of criminality. Crime scenes need to be secured in the usual manner.

### **SUDDEN DEATH CALLS**

The Medical Examiner's Office is advising that any unattended deaths that could be COVID-19 related will be handled with a special response. When notifying CPAC and the Medical Examiner's Office, advise them of any suspicion that the death may be related to COVID-19 and the ME's Office will respond accordingly.

On scene personnel should isolate the body and await the Medical Examiner's response unit. This could be a protracted response.

For any unattended death that does not have an obvious cause officers on scene as well as the supervisor and detectives should be asking the following questions of family members and caregivers:

Has the decedent tested positive for COVID-19?

Did the decedent have a fever or flu-like symptoms?

Did the decedent have a cough or experience coughing or shortness of breath recently?

Does anyone in the decedent's family, or does anyone the decedent resides with, currently have any of the above mentioned health issues or symptoms?

Has anyone that the decedent associates with (friends, family, co-workers) experienced any of the above mentioned health issues in the past 2-3 weeks?

Within the past 21 days did the decedent or anyone associated with the decedent travel out of the country or been on a cruise?

Has the decedent had contact with or been in close contact with anyone in the past 14 days that is being monitored or was sick with the COVID-19 virus?

**Universal precautions should be used in all sudden death calls.**

Wash hands and exposed skin carefully with soap and water before and after responding and frequently throughout the day.

Do not touch your face.

Bandage cuts or broken skin.

Maintain a social distance of 6 feet from everyone on scene.

Treat all blood and body fluids as if they are infectious.

Inspect your PPE for damage before donning.

Wear a mask, gloves, eye protection, clothing protection and shoe covers (all cruisers will be equipped with a box containing these items).

Removing contaminated PPE should be done carefully so contamination doesn't touch your skin. Dispose of contaminated PPE properly so potential contamination doesn't spread.

Notify Sgt. Franzese when supplies in the cruisers need to be restocked with PPE.

Recommend to the family of the decedent that the room be professionally cleaned by a biohazard remediation company.

Dispatchers, officers and supervisors must understand that this order does not supersede any duty to act. The preservation of life is foremost in our duty. This order does not allow any officer to fail to respond or to act, especially during medical calls. All supervisors must be cognizant of how and where police units are responding.