

**NORTH BEACH**  
**VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**

-----FIRE AND RESCUE DIVISION-----  
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**For Immediate Release**

March 30, 2020

The North Beach Volunteer Fire Department remains committed to serving our community as always. As we deal with the COVID-19 crisis, we want to let you know of the extra steps we are taking to serve you to the best of our ability.

The COVID-19 crisis is putting significant strain on emergency services across the country and rewriting how first responders interact with the public. In order to continue providing the highest quality service possible and maintain an effective response force, your NBVFD is implementing the following.

- Effective immediately, all casual visitors to the fire station will not be allowed into the building. We need to limit entry into the station to preserve the health and response capabilities of our all-volunteer force. The increasing number of confirmed cases in Calvert, Anne Arundel, Prince George's Counties and the District of Columbia, as well as the suspected number of asymptomatic carriers walking around require us to adopt this practice until the pandemic passes.
- If you have flu-like symptoms or believe you have COVID-19, contact your physician first prior to calling 9-1-1. This is in accordance with the guidance from the Center for Disease Control.
- If your physician recommends emergency transport due to COVID-19, be sure to let our teams know of your condition. Expect that they will be taking extra precautions to protect themselves while they treat you and transport you to the hospital.
- Due to revised decontamination guidelines, our transport units will be out of service for extended periods of time after a suspected or actual COVID-19 transport. This may result in services to the next emergency call being delayed because a transport unit will need to be dispatched from a neighboring department or county.
- We urge all citizens to heed the recommendations, warnings and directions from our local, state and federal officials. Earlier predictions of the pandemic miraculously disappearing have been replaced with ever increasing restrictions on gatherings and personal conduct. This is no time to be cavalier or disparaging of rules being enacted. These mandates are in force for your protection, your family's protection, the protection of our most vulnerable populations, our protection, and to shorten the impact of the virus.

**Wash Your Hands – Keep Your Distance – Stay Home**