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COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN ORANGE COUNTY COFEMS

Orange County, VA – The Orange County Fire & EMS Department (COFEMS) is currently experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak as defined by the Virginia Department of Health.

In accordance with Virginia Department of Health guidelines, a total of eleven (11) staffers have been placed in a fourteen (14) day quarantine status, due to the presence of six (6) positive cases. Following guidance from the department's Infectious Control Officer and the Virginia Department of Health, COFEMS is implementing a comprehensive approach to mitigate the spread of the virus amongst staff.

COFEMS will continue to follow safety protocols recommended for first responders including:
- Issuing personal protective equipment (PPE) to employees
- Requiring employees to wear N95 masks on every call
- Requiring employees to wear eye protection on every call
- Requiring employees to wear gloves on every call
- Sanitizing and disinfecting high touch surfaces in station facilities
- Sanitizing and disinfecting ambulances, response vehicles, and medical equipment
- Conducting daily health screenings of employees

Fire & EMS Chief, Nathan Mort, noted, "At this time, COFEMS is able to adjust shift schedules to maintain minimum staffing levels on all ambulances. We will continue to provide emergency services to residents of Orange County despite the ongoing pandemic."

For information on COVID-19 contact the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html or the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) at https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/. For more information regarding the COVID-19 outbreak in COFEMS, contact Stephanie Straub, Public Information Officer, at sstraub@orangecountyva.gov or (540) 672-5407.

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