

# CHARLESTON

## POLICE DEPARTMENT



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### **Charleston Police Department Guidelines and Procedures for Officers to Deal with The Coronavirus**

The Charleston Police Department is already working to help prevent its officers from getting sick from the coronavirus through a series of new guidelines and procedures.

Charleston Police Chief Luther Reynolds said all officers likely to come into contact with someone who has the coronavirus have been issued a kit consisting of multiple sets of gloves, a bacteria protection mask and hand sanitizer.

Officers are directed to use these items when during a response or public contact they learn of a possible individual with the virus.

The department has already backordered anti-bacteria supplies, gloves and extra masks, but the officers will not wear masks as a routine matter.

Among the CPD guidelines:

- Thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting work stations, vehicles, and surroundings.
- Maintaining good health, getting enough rest, maintaining a moderate exercise program, eating healthfully, etc.
- Staying home when sick, and respectfully requesting that others do the same.
- When interacting with a member of the public exhibiting upper respiratory symptoms (sneezing, coughing), provide them a surgical mask if one is available, or stand six feet away.
- Wearing proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). In the case of interacting with members of the public suspected of having COVID-19, that equipment could include masks, face shields, nitrile gloves.

“When contacting a member of the public exhibiting respiratory symptoms (sneezing and coughing), thought should be given to the necessity of making contact versus risk of possible exposure,” the guidelines say. “If time permits and contact is necessary, PPE should be worn. If there is no need to approach within six feet, it is generally safe to remain outside of six feet without PPE. Finally, if a suspect exhibiting symptoms is in custody and must be transported in a police vehicle, PPE should be worn.”

CPD, like most employers, also has advised employees who are ill to stay home.

“We’re always concerned about protecting the health of officers. We have been working with state and local healthcare officials to provide proper protection and assist to our officers as they go about their duties,” Reynolds said.

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