



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
(410) 974-3901
(TOLL FREE) 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

SB 570 - Emergency Services - Exposure to Contagious Diseases and Viruses - Notification and Other Requirements

**Position: Support
Senate Finance Committee
February 17, 2021**

**Dr. Ted Delbridge, Executive Director, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems
Jake Whitaker, Deputy Legislative Officer, Governor's Office**

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 570 (SB 570) will help protect the health and safety of frontline workers, including firefighters, police, and emergency medical services personnel by requiring medical facilities to notify them upon possible exposure to 2019-nCoV. SB 570 adds 2019-nCoV to the list of contagious diseases or viruses in Health-General §18-213, the exposure to which a medical care facility must notify first responders. SB 570 also permits medical facilities to contract with the Chesapeake Regional Information System for Our Patients (CRISP) to facilitate this notification requirement quickly and efficiently.

First responders have been on the frontlines of Maryland's response efforts since the beginning of the pandemic and are at an increased risk for exposure to individuals or patients suspected or confirmed to have 2019-nCoV. Despite the implementation of comprehensive infection controls, including the use of personal protective equipment and enhanced work safety practices, a significant degree of risk still remains. By notifying first responders when they have been exposed to an individual or patient diagnosed with 2019-nCoV, employers or public safety services can take appropriate steps to determine the degree of risk to the frontline worker and what actions must be taken to prevent harm, mitigate further spread, and control the trajectory of the disease.

SB 570 is part of Governor Hogan's commitment to enhancing the safety and well-being of first responders, especially during Maryland's current pandemic response efforts. SB 570 codifies existing emergency orders requiring that first responders be notified when exposed to 2019-nCoV. Making this notification requirement permanent will help protect first responders even after the state of emergency has ended.

For these reasons, the Administration respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 570.