

Hello fellow CERTS,

We want to update you on the latest information about COVID-19. Montgomery County CERT has created a special internal COVID-19 Task Force led by VP Gerry Adcock and me under the direction of Division Chief Kelly. Additionally, we have activated our VERT group under the leadership of Steve Peterson.

In the coming days we will share additional information via our communication platforms with you. For today I would like to share a valuable email sent to MCFRS civilian employees by Assistant Chief Adam Jones, which I think is applicable to CERTS and can be adapted as a good practice for families. Please read carefully. I also wish to remind you to plan to attend our General Meeting on March 12 at 1900 in the PSHQ. We will be offering a detailed update and providing a hands-on PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) demonstration. Please register via CERVIS.

Here is the (edited) email from Assistant Chief Jones:

*MCFRS in collaboration with State health and County Officials strictly follows the CDC guidelines. At this time the "CDC **does not** recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19."*

Listed below are some best practices for prevention in reference to Influenza A & B CONVID – 19 and the common cold.

- *Wash your hands frequently*
- *Use alcohol-based wipes to wipe down commonly used and flat surfaces (light switches, door handles, keyboards, cell phones etc.) daily at home and at work*
- *If you do not feel well, stay home and rest*

Our 1st responders who wear masks only wear them when they are going to within 6' of a PUI (Person Under Investigation for airborne illness) or when they are doing aggressive airway interventions that could cause increased respiratory exposures. Just like all of you they do not wear them in routine day to day scenarios.

Stay safe and be well,

*Greg St. James CERT Program Manager
Gerry Adcock CERT COVID-19 Task Force Lead*