

CANDIDATE PROCESSING FAQ – CORONAVIRUS PROCEDURES

Q-1: What procedures has the FDNY implemented to reduce the risk of transmitting the coronavirus?

A-1: The FDNY has implemented several procedures to reduce the risk of transmitting the coronavirus, the virus that causes COVID-19, including the following:

- Appointments are being staggered to allow for social distancing. You must arrive on time, and you may not bring anyone with you to your appointments.
- You must reschedule your appointment if you are sick, have flu-like or COVID-19 symptoms, have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days, or have been in close contact¹ with someone who has been diagnosed with or has symptoms of COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
 - ✓ To reschedule an Intake/background investigation appointment with the Candidate Investigation Division (“CID”), send an email to CID@fdny.nyc.gov
 - ✓ To reschedule an appointment for an initial medical examination, send an email to CID@fdny.nyc.gov
 - ✓ To reschedule a follow-up appointment at the Bureau of Health Services (“BHS”), call BHS at 718-999-1870/1897.
 - ✓ To reschedule a follow-up appointment at an outside provider, contact the outside provider at the phone number listed on the Authorization Form you received from BHS.
- You **must** wear a face covering at all times during your appointments, unless otherwise instructed by FDNY staff. You may NOT wear neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandannas, or face coverings with valves, mesh or holes. If you are required to attend a medical appointment at the BHS, the FDNY will provide you with a disposable procedural mask that you are required to wear during your visit.
- Use hand sanitizer frequently. Hand sanitizer will be available at stations throughout FDNY facilities.
- You must follow all social distancing or other instructions given to you by FDNY staff or the signage posted on the floors and walls of all FDNY facilities.

¹ Please refer to the Center for Disease Control’s (“CDC”) definition of “close contact,” which can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/global-covid-19/operational-considerations-contact-tracing.html#:~:text=Close%20contact%20is%20defined%20by,by%20local%20risk%20assessments>

- BHS has taken precautions in accordance with guidance from the federal and state government to prevent the spread of COVID-19. BHS staff are required to wear procedural masks at all times, as well as other appropriate personal protective equipment (“PPE”), during your medical.

Q-2: Will I be required to undergo testing for COVID-19?

A-2: Yes, if you are found eligible for the positions of Probationary Firefighter, Probationary EMT or EMS Trainee and are invited to enter an Academy class you must take a COVID-19 test and receive a negative result.

Q-3: If I am required to take a COVID-19 test, what is the testing procedure?

A-3: Approximately one week before the start of the Academy class, you will be scheduled for an appointment at BHS at FDNY Headquarters, 9 MetroTech, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

- BHS will collect a saliva sample for a COVID-19 viral test and send the sample to a lab for testing.
- If the test result is negative for COVID-19, you will be cleared to enter the Academy class and will receive written notification of your test result.
- If the test result is positive for COVID-19, a BHS physician will call you to notify you of the result and will provide you with the opportunity to have a nasal swab RNA test at an outside testing facility at no cost to you. (You also will receive written confirmation of the positive result from the saliva test.)
 - ✓ If you choose to undergo the re-test, BHS will schedule your appointment at the outside provider. You must appear for this appointment AND receive a negative test result in order to enter the Academy class.
 - ✓ If you undergo the test and the result is positive OR you choose to not take the re-test, you will **not** be cleared to enter the Academy class. However, you will remain eligible for future classes. If 12 months pass from the date of your initial medical examination and you have not been appointed to the position of Firefighter, you will be scheduled for a new medical exam. See [Firefighter Candidate Medical Examination Guidance Sec. 1.9](#).

Please note that it is possible that the laboratory testing the saliva samples will determine that a sample is not viable. If that occurs, BHS will contact you to schedule you to return to BHS to provide another saliva sample.

Q-4: Is there any change to the medical exam if I have received the COVID-19 vaccine?

A-4: If you have received the COVID-19 vaccine, you will not be tested for tuberculosis (TB) until four (4) weeks after you receive the last dose pursuant to CDC guidelines. If you have not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine but anticipate you will receive it, BHS will test for tuberculosis using a blood test (sometimes referred to as a quantiferon blood test) rather than a PPD skin test. For additional information about the Immunization/PPD station refer to [FAQs Part 9 – Immunization Station](#).