



Fire Management Board

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY TEAM

TO: Chris Wilcox
Chair, Fire Management Board

FROM: L. Kaili McCray
Chair, Wildland Fire Medical and Public Health Advisory Team

SUBJECT: **Firefighter Health and Wellbeing - Continued Management and Prevention of Infectious Disease During Wildland Fire Operations**

The 2023 MPHAT guidance is enclosed for transmittal. This revised guidance focuses on continued support of the health, wellbeing, and readiness of firefighters on incidents through sustained infectious disease prevention efforts. Mitigations that remain effective are highlighted; and we defer to agency policy on required safety protocols for COVID-19.

On Monday April 10, 2023 President Biden signed a bipartisan congressional resolution ending the U.S. national emergency to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the [public health emergency](#) as declared by the Health and Human Services Secretary ending on May 11, 2023. All safety protocols outlined in the U.S. Forest Service's and Department of the Interior's COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plans are still required and should be followed. The Safer Federal Workforce Task Force is reviewing all relevant COVID-19 policies and will issue further guidance, if necessary. Although the U.S. national emergency has ended, we should continue to prioritize and implement strategies to help ensure fire personnel remain healthy throughout the fire season.