

## Plan of Care for Admitted Patient with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

Please refer to [NSHA COVID-19 Hub](#) for up-to-date documents and information.

<p><b>Patient is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection. Laboratory specimens have been collected.</b></p>	
<p><b>Notifications:</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infection Prevention and Control Department</li> <li>• Environmental Services Supervisor</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Additional Precautions:</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place in a private room with private toilet and sink.</li> <li>• Anticipate requirement for Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR)/Negative Pressure Room for an <a href="#">aerosol generating medical procedure</a> (AGMP).*</li> <li>• If cohorting necessary, only patients who are confirmed with COVID-19 should be cohorted and 2 metre spatial separation maintained. Consult Infection Prevention and Control.</li> </ul>	
<p>Initiate <a href="#">Droplet</a> and <a href="#">Contact</a> Precautions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Note:</b> Gloves, Gown, Mask <b>and</b> Face/Eye Protection must be worn upon room entry.</li> <li>• <b>PPE will be worn in accordance with universal masking practices</b></li> </ul>	
<p>Post Applicable Signage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Droplet and Contact Precautions</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Guide to Putting on Personal Protective Equipment Droplet and Contact Precautions</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Guide to Removing Personal Protective Equipment Droplet and Contact Precautions</a></li> <li>• Visitors Restrictions Signage- Check with Nursing Station</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Personal Protective Equipment:</b></p>	
<p>Have Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available for use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks- procedure or surgical</li> <li>• N95 respirator</li> </ul> <p><i>*NOTE: N95 respirators are required only for aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs)*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face/Eye Protection (i.e. goggles, masks with visor attached or full face shields)</li> <li>• Isolation gowns (disposable or reusable)</li> <li>• Gloves</li> </ul> <p>Consider having a <a href="#">buddy</a> check that you have your PPE on correctly before entering the room and monitor you taking it off.</p>	
<p><b>Hand Hygiene:</b></p>	
<p>Perform hand hygiene often with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water (when hands visibly soiled).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remember- this is an important step to complete after removing gloves and gowns and before removing mask and facial protection, as well as on completion of PPE removal.</li> </ul>	

<b>Room Set Up:</b>	
<p>Ensure Patient Room is equipped with necessary supplies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hands-free garbage can inside room near exit for disposal of PPE</li> <li>• Linen hamper</li> <li>• Disposable disinfectant wipes <b>or</b> disinfectant solution and disposable cloths.</li> </ul>	
<p>Dedicate equipment (stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, commode, thermometer, etc.) and use single use disposable items when possible. Clean and disinfect non-disposable patient care equipment between patients as per <a href="#">Routine Practices</a>.</p>	
<p>Do not bring unnecessary items into the room (e.g. pens, charts, personal stethoscope, extra supplies, etc.).</p>	
<b>Patient Transport:</b>	
<p>Limit movement/transport of patient.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients should be restricted to their room with the exception of essential diagnostic and therapeutic testing.</li> <li>• Transfer within and between facilities is to be avoided unless medically indicated and in the patient's best interest.</li> </ul> <p>If patients need to leave their room for the purposes listed, they should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear a surgical or procedure mask.</li> <li>• Be instructed on respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene techniques.</li> <li>• Be wrapped in a clean blanket or sheet during transport.</li> <li>• Not hold their own health records.</li> </ul> <p>Droplet and Contact Precautions must be maintained during transport, and communicated to porter services/EHS and the receiving department. Call ahead to the receiving department/facility to advise them of the patient's arrival and need for Droplet and Contact Precautions. The patient should be taken directly to their destination.</p> <p>Following transport, clean and disinfect the transport device (e.g. stretcher, wheelchair) immediately after use.</p>	
<b>Environmental Cleaning:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All horizontal and frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned with a broad-spectrum virucidal disinfectant twice daily and when soiled. Ensure dwell time is achieved as per product label.</li> <li>• Cleaning protocols (sequencing, equipment) are as for a Droplet and Contact Precautions room.</li> <li>• Ensure that all unused disposable equipment and supplies are discarded during the terminal clean (discharge clean) of patient room in addition to the routine discharge cleaning processes.</li> </ul>	
<b>Patient Care Guidance:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit the number of staff entering the patient room to essential personnel.</li> <li>• Avoid unnecessary entries into the room. Ensure you have all necessary equipment/supplies on entry, and try to batch care tasks i.e. provide personal care while in the room to deliver scheduled medications or perform vital signs.</li> <li>• Closely monitor patient for clinical deterioration and ensure rapid escalation to higher level of care as required. Have plan in place for this in advance.</li> <li>• Visitors will be restricted to those who are essential (parent, guardian, primary caregiver) and will visit the patient directly and exit the facility directly after the visit. They should be actively screened and managed if they have signs and symptoms and exposure criteria consistent with COVID-19. They will be required to wear the same PPE as staff for their visit. See NSHA <a href="#">Staff Guidance on Visitor Restrictions</a>.</li> <li>• Parents rooming in with their child need to conduct self-screening for signs and symptoms of illness and are expected to stay inside the room with their child.</li> </ul>	

<p>Aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) require <a href="#">Airborne Precautions</a> during the procedure. Staff should be limited to those necessary to carry out the procedure. The most experienced healthcare provider should perform the AGMP e.g. intubation, bronchoscopy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post <a href="#">Airborne Precautions Signage</a></li> </ul> <p>* Refer to <a href="#">2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19: Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures in Healthcare Settings)</a>.</p>	
<b>Discharge Information:</b>	
<p>Discharges to Home/Community when patient is medically stable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess stage of exposure or disease communicability.</li> <li>• Consult with Public Health.</li> <li>• Provide patient with information from Public Health on self-isolation. This information is also available in a variety of languages. Patients may be required to self-isolate at home if the period of communicability of the illness is not over.</li> <li>• Provide the patient with a mask to wear during transport home. Patients should not take public transit.</li> <li>• Care providers in the home or community should be advised of the need for Droplet and Contact Precautions. Precautions will remain in place until the completion of the period of communicability and as directed by Public Health.</li> </ul>	
<b>Additional Information:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow instructions for testing for COVID-19. Please refer to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) for information on testing.</li> <li>• Staff and Physicians can engage a trained interpreter via <a href="#">Language Services</a> to support patients who do not speak English fluently or understand it fully.</li> <li>• All HCWs and staff will follow self-screening guidance and contact Occupational Health if they become ill.</li> </ul>	

Manage patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection with the same approach as you would any patient with influenza-like illness, with the exception of, performing aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs).

Please contact your local Infection Prevention and Control team for additional support and any questions that arise. Thank You.

*This guidance may change as new information becomes available or there are new developments in the current situation.*