

Acute Care Guiding Principles for Transport of Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

Prior to and during transportation, all patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection are to be managed using Droplet and Contact Precautions.

AMBULATORY PATIENTS (DROPLET AND CONTACT PRECAUTIONS):

- Inform the receiving department of the patient's pending arrival and the need for Droplet and Contact Precautions.
- Ask the patient to clean their hands.
- Where possible ensure the patient is wearing a well-fitted medical mask.
- Staff to wear appropriate PPE for Droplet and Contact Precautions.
- Staff to escort the patient directly to the receiving department.
- Only transport staff and patient to occupy the elevator.

TRANSPORT (DROPLET AND CONTACT PRECAUTIONS):

- Ensure clear and direct communication between the sending and receiving unit/department on timeline for transfer.
- Plan to use the shortest route to minimize possible contamination and exposures.
- Remove all non-essential items/equipment from the patient's bed.
- Secure equipment required for transport.
- Assist the patient to clean their hands.
- Where possible patient will wear a well-fitted medical mask.
- Cover the patient in a clean sheet or blanket.
- If staff available, designate one staff member as a "clean" assist (open doors, clear hallway if required, secure elevator if required, monitor for environmental contamination, clean environment if contamination occurs).
- Staff to wear appropriate PPE for Droplet and Contact Precautions.
- Only transport staff and patient to occupy the elevator.
- Clean and disinfect the transport equipment following transport.

TRANSPORT (DROPLET/CONTACT/AIRBORNE PRECAUTIONS):

- Patients on Airborne Precautions are to leave their room for medically essential purposes only.
- If the patient must be transported, plan the transport to limit the exposure of other individuals.
- Ensure clear and direct communication between the sending and receiving area on timeline for transfer.
- Advise the receiving area that the patient requires Airborne Precautions in addition to Droplet/Contact precautions.
- Plan to use the shortest route to minimize possible contamination and exposures.
- Contact facility Security to facilitate elevator usage if required.
- Remove all non-essential items/equipment from the patient's bed.
- Secure equipment required for transport.
- Ensure HME filter in place for ventilated patients.
- Where possible, patient will wear a well-fitted medical mask (such as over high flow nasal oxygen).
- Cover the patient in a clean sheet or blanket.
- If staff available, designate one staff member as a "clean" assist (open doors, clear hallway if required, secure elevator if required, monitor for environmental contamination, clean environment if contamination occurs).
- Staff to wear appropriate PPE for Droplet/Contact/Airborne Precautions.
- Only transport staff and patient to occupy the elevator.
- Clean and disinfect the transport equipment following transport.