Infection Control Branch

Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in hospitals/clinics under Serious/ Emergency Response Level
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
(Interim)

Last reviewed: 18 September 2020
Recommended Personal Protective Equipment for routine patient care and performing aerosol-generating procedures in hospitals/clinics under **Serious / Emergency Response Level**.

Apply Standard Precautions +/- transmission based precautions for all patients.

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<td><strong>High-risk patient areas</strong></td>
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</table>
| I. Triage stations of Out-patient Clinics and AEDs | Routine patient care and aerosol-generating procedures (a,b) | - Surgical mask  
- eye protection (d)  
- gown  
- gloves  
- cap(optional) | - Surgical mask  
- eye protection (d)  
- gown  
- gloves  
- cap(optional) |
| II. Designated clinics | Routine patient care and aerosol-generating procedures (a,b) | - N95 respirator  
- eye protection (d)  
- gown  
- gloves  
- cap(optional) | - N95 respirator  
- eye protection (d)  
- gown  
- gloves  
- cap(optional) |
| III. Isolation rooms (including isolation rooms in ICU and AEDs) | Routine patient care and aerosol-generating procedures (a,b) | - N95 respirator  
- eye protection (d)  
- gown  
- gloves  
- cap(optional) | - N95 respirator  
- eye protection (d)  
- gown  
- gloves  
- cap(optional) |
| No patient contact (e.g. outside patient room) | Surgical mask | Surgical mask |
| **Other patient areas**   |                                                |                        |                          |
| Routine patient care | - Surgical mask, Standard Precautions +/- transmission based precautions | - Surgical mask, Standard Precautions +/- transmission based precautions |
| Aerosol-generating procedures (a,c,e) | - N95 respirator  
- eye protection (d)  
- gown  
- gloves  
- cap (optional) | - N95 respirator  
- eye protection (d)  
- gown  
- gloves  
- cap (optional) |
| No patient contact | Surgical mask is required in patient areas | Surgical mask is required in ALL areas |
Non patient areas | No patient contact | • Surgical mask is required in patient areas | • Surgical mask is required in ALL areas

Remarks:

a. Aerosol-generating procedures with documented increased in risk of respiratory infection transmission are endotracheal intubation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, bronchoscopy, open suctioning of respiratory tract (including tracheostomy care), autopsy and non-invasive positive pressure ventilation (BiPAP & CPAP). Aerosol-generating procedures with controversial/ limited studies evaluating the risk of respiratory infection transmission are high-frequency oscillatory ventilation, nebulizer therapy and sputum induction. Nasopharyngeal aspiration (NPA) and high flow oxygen are theoretically at risk of dispersal of infectious respiratory droplets, therefore they should be performed in conditions as required for aerosol-generating procedures in high-risk patient areas. Other procedures should be assessed on discretion of hospital Infection Control Officers.

b. In high risk patient areas, place patient in a negative pressure airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) before performing aerosol generating procedures.

c. In other patient areas, place patient in a well-ventilated area (e.g. at least minimum overall 6 air changes per hour (ACH) or use portable HEPA filter e.g. IQ Air if indicated) before performing aerosol generating procedures.

d. Eye protection refers to full face shield or goggles or eye-visor.

e. Taking into consideration of patient’s factors under OT setting, where the patient has undergone pre-operative screening and under sedation, staff is advised to follow Standard Precautions or transmission based precautions (if indicated) when performing intubation for elective surgery.