

Phelps Health	Title: 2019 Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 Precautions	Reference Word: Coronavirus
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Purpose: The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidance for the protection of healthcare workers involved in the care of patients with known or suspected 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

Policy: Precautions for Prevention of Transmission of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

A. All patients who present with fever and respiratory symptoms should be managed using the Respiratory Hygiene / Etiquette Program. Initial screening will be completed by staff registering the patient.

B. Patients screening will include:

1. Most current screening questions recommended by the CDC.
2. If patient answers yes to any of the screening questions then patient will be considered to have a positive screening.
3. Screening guidelines may change. The most current screening questions recommended by the CDC will be utilized at all times. Infection Prevention will keep all screening personnel up to date of any changes.

Procedure:

A. Isolation Precautions

1. Have the patient apply a surgical mask and move to a private room with the door closed.
2. If admitted, place a patient with known or suspected COVID-19 in a single-person room with the door close. The patient should have a dedicated bathroom.
3. Airborne infection isolation rooms should be reserved for patients who will be undergoing aerosol-generating procedures.
4. If multiple COVID-19 patients are present, assign them to dedicated nursing staff/providers.
5. The following rooms meet negative pressure requirements:

- Med Tele 241, 247, 252, and 259
- PEDS 312, 316
- Med Onc 416, 418
- All Intensive care rooms
- ER 18

There is a portable HEPA filter machine (contact Plants Operations x 7565 to obtain machine) that can be used in an equal-pressure patient room or enclosed area when a negative-pressure isolation room is unavailable.

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A negative-pressure room is also located in the Endoscopy Department where bronchoscopes are performed (Room 2).

NOTE: Keep the door closed.

6. Place an Airborne Precautions sign and a Contact Precautions sign on the door.
 - a. Use Standard Precautions e.g. hand hygiene.
 - b. Wear a mask with face shield or goggles to protect your eyes.
(Glasses do not count.)
 - c. Wear a long sleeve impermeable gown and gloves.
 - d. **Mask over N95 masks will be given to those clinicians that perform inpatient clinical care or those procedures that result in potential aerosolization of the Coronavirus, such as:**
 - **Intubation/extubation**
 - **Nebulizer treatments/Bipap therapy**
 - **Assistance with showering or bathing patients**
 - **Oral hygiene**
 - **Wound care with irrigation**
 - **Office surgery**
 - e. ~~Mask over N-95 respirator should be worn for the following:~~
 - ~~High contact patient care such as dressing or bathing~~
 - ~~During showers~~
 - ~~During oral hygiene~~
 - ~~During wound care involving irrigation~~
 - ~~During aerosol respiratory treatments~~
 - ~~During procedures that may aerosolize the virus~~
 7. Promptly notify the Nursing supervisor if a suspect COVID-19 patient arrives to the ED or for direct admission. The Nursing Supervisor will notify the Nursing Administrator On-Call. If a patient is approved by the State Department of Health for testing, the NAOC will contact Infection Prevention. Infection Prevention will notify Phelps County Health Department to obtain specimen collection test kit.
- B. Infection Control Precautions for Aerosol – Generating and/or Cough Inducing Procedures on Patients who have R/O 2019 Novel Coronavirus.
1. Aerosol-generating and/or cough inducing procedures may facilitate transmission of 2019 Novel Coronavirus. These potentially aerosol-generating procedures may include aerosolized medication treatments (e.g.

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albuterol), diagnostic sputum induction, and bronchoscopy, airway suctioning and endotracheal intubation.

2. Aerosol-generating and/or cough inducing procedures may be performed on patients who may have 2019 Novel Coronavirus only when deemed absolutely necessary by the attending physician and documented in the patient chart. The following procedures should not be performed on a routine basis on 2019 Novel Coronavirus:
 - a. Bronchoscopy
 - b. Sputum induction
 - c. Aerosol therapy (includes O₂, aerosol and medicated aerosol)
 - d. Non-invasive CPAP and BiPAP
3. Patient may be intubated (pre-medicate if possible) and mechanically ventilated as needed. Humidification of ventilator gases is done via filtered HME.
4. All healthcare personnel involved in aerosol-generating and/or cough inducing procedure (endotracheal intubation, airway suctioning) must wear the following PPE:
 - a. Positive Airway Pressure Respirator (PAPR) or mask over N-95 respirator
 - b. Goggles (that form a seal to the face) if using mask over N-95 respirator
 - c. Mask with face shield over N-95 respirator and goggles
 - d. Long sleeve impermeable gown
 - e. Gloves

C. Specimen Collection Procedure

1. Guidance will be given on specimens needed by Missouri Department of Health and CDC.
2. Deliver specimens to the Hospital Lab via courier.
DO NOT SEND THROUGH PNEUMATIC TUBE SYSTEM.

D. Imaging:

1. Radiology to be informed of isolation precautions Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) by inpatient staff.
2. All radiographs will be performed portability in the patient room to minimize transport of the patient.
3. Emergent necessity is required for advanced imaging (CT, MRI, US and Nuclear medicine) Exceptions are level 1 trauma, stroke. The equipment requires cleaning for airborne and contact isolation. As such, the room needs to be down for 1 hour after imaging patient.
4. The patient should not go to or be held in waiting areas.

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5. Cleaning / Disinfection

- a. Mask, goggles/face shield, gown, and gloves must be utilized for all cleaning and disinfection, including after the patient is discharged from the room.
- b. The person responsible for the equipment will clean shared/community equipment (i.e., portable x-ray machines, etc.) with a hospital approved bleach wipes according to the manufacturer's instructions (i.e., **x-ray machine will be cleaned by the Radiology Tech**).

E. Patient Transport

1. Patients are to be transported with a mask and staff are required to wear mask, gown, gloves, and goggles/face shield
2. Transporting a probable/suspect 2019 Novel Coronavirus patient should be avoided if possible.
3. If the patient cannot tolerate wearing a surgical or procedure mask, they should be instructed to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing and to perform hand hygiene after disposing of the tissue.

F. Patient Teaching

1. Instruct the patient to cover his/her nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
2. Instruct the patient on the importance of remaining in the isolation room.

G. Respiratory and Contact Precautions for Visitors The nurse caring for the patient should instruct the visitors as follows:

1. Visitors will be allowed on case by case evaluation.
2. **Patient must wear a mask while visitor is in the room.**
3. Wear a mask, the entire time you are visiting, even if leaving the room. Change mask if it becomes wet or soiled. Dispose of mask prior to leaving for the day.
4. Wash your hands before you leave the room.
5. Do not go to other areas of the unit, such as the kitchenette. If you need something, please contact the nurse.
6. If you or another family member has flu-like symptoms, please do not come to the hospital until you are evaluated by a physician or you are free of symptoms.

H. Emergency Department Precautions

1. When patient signs in:

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- a. Have the patient apply a surgical or procedure mask and move to a private room with the door closed.
- b. Notify Nursing Supervisor x7922.
- c. Patient is evaluated by provider and screened for COVID-19 testing. If testing is indicated, the State Health Department will be notified to obtain testing permission.
- d. If testing is indicated, notify the nursing supervisor immediately.
- e. The nursing supervisor will contact the NAOC and Infection Prevention will be notified.
- f. Infection Prevention will notify Phelps County Health Department

J. Ambulatory Care Setting

1. Place a mask on the patient and isolate in a treatment room and shut the door.
2. Screen for potential COVID-19 using the Department of Health criteria.
3. Consider performing influenza and rapid strep tests.
4. If risk is identified, call the State Department of Health for testing approval.
5. Place an order in the medical record for testing.
6. Instruct the patient to leave on his/her face mask and return to their vehicle and drive to the designated COVID testing site and remain in their car until a staff member directs them further.
7. Call the local health department and complete the CD-1 form and fax to the Phelps County Health Department.
8. If patient is calling to report potential exposure or symptoms the patient will be screened using the Department of Health criteria. If risk is identified, the State Department of Health will be notified for testing approval. If approval is obtained, an order is placed in the medical record for testing. Call the local health department and complete the CD-1 form and fax to the Phelps County Health Department.
9. Instruct the patient to leave on his/her face mask and return to their vehicle and drive to the designated COVID testing site and remain in their car until a staff member directs them further.

K. Home Health

During the initial intake screening (screening will be complete prior to home care visits), targeted screening questions will be asked.

1. If patient answers yes to any of the screening questions then patient will be considered to have a positive screening.
2. Positive screen

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- a. Staff will immediately inform patient of need to follow up with their provider.
- b. Notify provider concerning positive screening.
3. Negative screen
 - a. Complete intake screening and continue routine homecare set up.

M. Sleep Services

Before patient's scheduled study, staff will call patient and (screening will be completed prior to scheduled appointment), targeted screening questions will be asked.

1. If patient answers yes to any of the screening questions then patient will be considered to have a positive screening.
2. Positive screen
 - a. Staff will immediately inform patient of need to follow up with their provider.
 - b. Notify provider concerning positive screening.
3. Negative screen

Perform sleep study as ordered.

N. Cleaning Equipment and Surfaces in inpatient and outpatient areas

1. Mask, goggles/face shield, gown, and gloves must be utilized for all cleaning and disinfection, including after the patient is discharged from the room.

The person responsible for the equipment will clean shared/community equipment (i.e., portable x-ray machines, etc.) with a hospital approved bleach wipes according to the manufacturer's instructions (**i.e., x-ray machine will be cleaned by the Radiology Tech**).
2. Wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol foam after cleaning equipment.

O. Discontinuation of Precautions

1. The discontinuation of Airborne Precautions/Contact Precautions for a patient with suspected or probable 2019 Novel Coronavirus will be decided on a case by case evaluation.
2. Housekeeping measures after discontinuation of isolation:
 - a. Terminal cleaning procedures should be done after the patient is discharged. Clean/disinfect with bleach products.
 - a. Full PPE (mask, gown, gloves, face shield/goggles) must be utilized for all cleaning and disinfection, by the Environmental Services staff, including after the patient is discharged from the room.

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- b. Room may be re-used after terminal cleaning. Terminal cleaning takes approximately one hour.

References:

- [Interim Health Care Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients Under Investigation for 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Health Care Settings](#)
- [CDC's Health Alert Network Update: Outbreak of Pneumonia Associated with Novel Coronavirus 2019 \(nCoV-2019\) in Wuhan, China.](#)
- 2019 Novel Coronavirus Traveler Monitoring Guidance, February 5, 2020

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