

Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment

Routes of Transmission

- Cases and clusters demonstrate that COVID-19 is transmitted through the Droplet/Contact route
- Most cases are linked to person-to-person transmission through close contact
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 is transmitted through the airborne route except possibly in special circumstances

Key Recommendations for Care of Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

When providing routine care:

- **Use Droplet and Contact precautions**
- Isolate the patient in a single room

When planning or anticipating to conduct aerosol-generating medical procedures*:

- **Use Airborne precautions**
- Place the patient in an airborne infection isolation room (AIIR)
- If AIIR is not available, isolate the patient in a single room with a closed door

*Aerosol-generating medical procedures

- Endotracheal intubation, including during cardio-pulmonary resuscitation
- Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation
- Open airway suctioning
- Bronchoscopy (Diagnostic or Therapeutic)
- Surgery and autopsy Sputum induction (Diagnostic or Therapeutic)
- Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation for acute respiratory failure (CPAP, BiPAP3-5)
- High flow oxygen therapy

Note: The collection of a nasopharyngeal swab is not an aerosol generating procedure.

Precautions

Risk Assessments

- Health Care Workers have a responsibility to perform a Point-of-Care risk assessment before every patient interaction
- Organizations have a responsibility to conduct an Organizational Risk Assessment and education/train staff accordingly
- Organizations should apply a [hierarchy of hazard controls](#), which include elimination and substitution, engineering and systems controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment.

Droplet and Contact Precautions

- Gloves
- Protective eyewear
- Surgical/procedure mask
- Isolation gown

Airborne Precautions

- N95 Respirator
- AIIR

Healthcare Providers and Support Staff

		Droplet & Contact Precautions	Airborne Precautions	No PPE required	Other
In-Patient Healthcare Facilities					
Patient's room	Providing direct care to suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients (including nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab collection)	✓			
	Aerosol-generating procedures performed on suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients	✓	✓		
Patient transit areas	Any activity that does not involve contact with suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients				Routine practices and additional precautions based on risk assessment
Triage	Preliminary screening not involving direct contact	✓			PPE not required if separated by physical barrier or able to maintain 2m distance from patient
Administrative areas	Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with patients			✓	

Ambulatory and Outpatient Healthcare Facilities					
Consultation room	Physician examination of patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19	✓			
Administrative areas	Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with patients			✓	
Reception/Triage	Preliminary screening not involving direct contact	✓			PPE not required if separated by physical barrier or able to maintain 2m distance from patient

Home Care

In patient's home	Visiting clients/patients suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19	✓			
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Long Term Care Home					
Any location	Providing direct care to suspect or confirmed COVID-19 residents (including nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab collection)	✓			
Any location	Providing CPAP and/or open suctioning to suspect or confirmed COVID-19 residents		✓		
Administrative areas	Administrative tasks that do not involve contact with resident suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19			✓	

Visitors and Environmental Service Workers

All Care Settings					
Patient's room	Entering the room of a suspect or confirmed COVID-19 person (including entering to clean after and between consultations)	✓			Visitors should be discouraged or limited

Patients Suspected or Confirmed to have COVID-19

In-Patient Healthcare Facilities	
Triage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide patient with surgical/procedure mask if tolerated. Ask patient to maintain 2m distance or separation by a physician barrier. Ask patient to perform hand hygiene.
Ambulatory and Outpatient Healthcare Facilities	
Triage/Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide patient with surgical/procedure mask if tolerated. Ask patient to maintain 2m distance or separation by a physician barrier.
Waiting room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide patient with surgical/procedure mask if tolerated. Immediately move the patient to a single patient room or separate area away from others. If this is not feasible, ensure special distance of at least 2m from patient.
Consultation room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide patient with surgical/procedure mask if tolerated. Ask patient to perform hand hygiene.