



## INFECTION CONTROL POLICY & PROCEDURE

**Title:** Emergency Room Isolation Precautions for Suspected/Confirmed COVID-19 Patient

**Number:** IC-6016

**Effective Date:** 03-01-21

**Revise Date:** 02-03-22

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**PURPOSE:** To prevent as much as can be predicted, the serial transmission of COVID-19 to other staff and patients in ER and other units.

**POLICY:** To establish specific precautions as pertaining to COVID-19 suspected or confirmed patients, and to primarily protect other patients and staff, whether in ED or other units. To prevent as much as can be predicted, the serial transmission of COVID-19 by Contact, Droplet and/or Aerosol, to staff and other patients.

### **PROCEDURE**

A) Patients at Triage:

1. Evaluation of patient at time of inquiry: Be aware of any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at this time. Note: fever, respiratory compromise, question patient for loss of taste and smell, prolonged headache, nausea, etc.
2. Ask patient if they have received one or both COVID immunizations.  
(Note: just because someone comes in with another primary issue, it doesn't mean they are not suspicious for an underlying COVID-19 infection.)
3. All patients when admitted to an ER room for evaluation by physician, MUST wear a mask at all times. Encourage them to sanitized hands before going into room to wait.
4. If suspected by either Triage team or Physician, the possibility of COVID-19 infection, the patient at that time MUST be placed on COVID precautions. This includes the appropriate signage (pink DROPLET/CONTACT sign) hung on front of sliding glass and to make sure PPE is available for ALL staff to use.
  - If the ER physician orders a COVID-19 swab, the patient is considered suspected for COVID-19 and is placed on COVID precautions at that time. No exceptions.
  - PPE should be available in the Isolation Cart.
    - Make sure the Isolation cart is full with PPE and is checked at the beginning of each shift. (Every 12hrs.or more often if necessary)
  - PPE should include procedure masks, N95 masks or equivalent, gowns, gloves of all sizes and face shields.
    - Note: this is the standard PPE for COVID-19.

- B) When the COVID-19 suspected/confirmed patient is sent to the Diagnostic Imaging department, Lab is ordered and a phlebotomist is summoned, EACH DEPARTMENT MUST BE NOTIFIED that a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient is being evaluated in the ER.

- C) If the COVID-19 suspected/confirmed patient is to be admitted, SBAR communication to the floor MUST include the notification that a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient is being transferred.
- D) NOTE: appropriate PPE must be worn by staff AND patient must wear a mask during transport. NO PERSONAL MASKING IS USED BY STAFF, ONLY MASKING PROVIDED BY HOSPITAL
- E) Follow room cleaning procedures as per Housekeeping policy.

**Exceptions:**

- a) Mental patients to be tested for placement in Mental Health facility. (Screening only). NOTE: patient has NO symptoms of COVID-19 infection.
- b) Patients awaiting placement in Nursing home facility. (screening only) NOTE: patient has not symptoms of COVID-19 infection

Approved By:

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Infection Control Practitioner

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Date

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Chief Nursing Officer

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Date