

Infection Prevention Guidance:

Persons at bedside with potential for extended exposure to COVID-19 related to: Aerosol Generating tx/Procedures (AGPs)

Extended Exposure is defined as bedside caregiver or support staff remaining in room for > 2 hour increment. (Ex. sitter at bedside for 12 hour shift, Dialysis nurses at bedside for extended timeframes, Security Officer/ Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) that have to remain at bedside, etc.)

*** Before initiating this process, all efforts to consider different options to avoid having bedside caregivers/support staff being exposed to aerosolized Covid-19 for an extended period of time.***

Suggested options to D/C AGPs (not all inclusive):

- Is Avasys instead of a Sitter an option?
- Can Nebulizer treatments be changed to inhalers (MDIs)?
- Can we safely decrease amount of O2 supplementation?
- Can sitter visually see the patient through a window with the door remaining closed?
 - If yes, then should sit outside- only going in when needed. (MICU/SICU)
- Can security/LEO guard from outside of the room with the door closed?
 - They can be offered scrubs, they may refuse scrubs; but PPE should be strongly encouraged. Call IP for help with alternate plan.

The Nursing supervisor should facilitate this process, the unit Nurse Manager and infection prevention should also be made aware of occurrence.

Persons at bedside that meet the “Extended Exposure” timeframe criteria will be allocated a set of surgical scrubs, disposable head covering (bouffant cap) to wear under the required PPE (N-95 mask, goggles/face shield with non-porous/ plastic components, gown, and gloves).

They will be given the option (recommended for increased potential of exposure on skin and clothing) to shower after shift. They will be asked to double bag linen used for showering and place in designated bin, and also to double bag surgical scrubs and place in a different designated bin. The place for staff changing/shower has been set up on SDS in room 2143. There is posted signage with instructions, and linen (towels/bath cloths) available. **please maintain a neat space and pick up after yourself, disinfect any surfaces used in area (table top/chairs) **

EVS will need to be notified after 2143 has been used so it can be scheduled for cleaning and disinfection. (During week/days- EVS assigned to SDS will cover this area. Evenings/nights/weekends- contact EVS supervisor through operator-ext. 6305) **EVS techs will disinfect bathroom completely and disinfect surfaces in the “locker room area”**

This process is meant to offer an option for persons having potential of extended and increased exposure that meet above criteria. All other staff caring for Covid-19 + patients receiving AG tx/Ps are protected with current PPE recommendations & strict hand hygiene practices. They are asked to continue following current recommendations, as their exposure time is “limited” and considered lower risk.