Infection Prevention Measures for Healthcare Professionals

Mode of Transmission

- Early reports suggest transmission via close contact, via respiratory droplets from coughing or sneezing
- Increasing data showing possibility of aerosol transmission, and viability of virus on surfaces for up to 72 hours
- Long distance aerosol transmission thought to be unlikely

PPE:

- Current CDC recommendations support use of airborne precautions including gown, gloves, eyewear and N95 respirators.
- In the context of respirator shortages, facemasks (surgical masks) are acceptable alternatives for non-aerosol generating procedures
- Remember, N95 and other respirators are only effective if they are properly fitted and achieve a tight seal. Providers caring for suspected patients should have undergone appropriate fit testing and training.
- Respirators should be donned before entry into the patient’s room.
- Gown, Gloves, and Eye protection should be donned and doffed in the patient’s room.
- When using PPE, be sure to follow correct Donning and Doffing procedures:

Hand Washing:

- Since it is much harder to effectively clean your hands with long/painted fingernails, or with jewelry on, you should consider removing jewelry and/or trimming your fingernails and removing nail polishes.
- Proper hand hygiene should be performed before and after all patient contact, contact with infectious material, and Donning/Doffing PPE
- Hand washing after Doffing is particularly important to remove any contamination from the PPE.
- Washing your hands should be the FIRST AND LAST thing you do during a patient encounter
- Alcohol Based Hand Rubs or Soap and Warm Water should be used for at least 20 seconds

Surface Disinfection:

- As data begins to accumulate supporting possible fomite transmission, regular and frequent disinfection of surfaces using EPA registered hospital disinfectants is important.
- Some examples of these disinfectants include: Clorox Commercial Solutions® Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant Wipes, LYSOL® DISINFECTANT SPRAY, Oxivir Tb wipes
- For a full list of disinfectants effective against coronavirus, follow this QR code
- Surfaces must be covered (wet) in the disinfectants for the reported contact time in order to be effective.

Guidance for returning home

- It is recommended that you have a dedicated set of clothes for working in patient care areas, and you should change your clothing before spending significant time at home.
- You should consider routine disinfection of your car surfaces, and other items such as phones, keys, and credit cards.
- In order to avoid damage to your phone, avoid spray cleaners. Isopropyl Alcohol wipes or Clorox disinfecting wipes are effective and safe.
- You should wash your hands immediately upon returning home, and consider showering with antibacterial soap before resuming home activities.