

## NM Healthcare Epidemiology and Infection Prevention

### Inpatient Care Information for RCOVID-19 and COVID-19 Patients

- This virus is transmitted by droplets. Patients are to be managed with Droplet and Contact precautions (procedure mask, gown, gloves) and eye protection, except in an ICU setting or when an aerosol generating procedure (AGP) takes place – then use an N95 respirator or PAPR instead of a procedure mask.
- Patients are to be placed in private rooms with the door closed
- An airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) is not recommended by CDC unless the patient will be undergoing an AGP. The collection of a NP or OP swab is not an aerosol generating procedure.
  - Place the appropriate Precaution sign outside the room door
  - If performing an AGP use the N95 respirator ([PPE Guidelines – What to Use and When to Use it](#)).
  - If performing an AGP place the “Patient Received Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP)” sign outside the room door with times documented
  - Stock all required PPE
    - N95 Respirators or Procedural mask
    - Gowns
    - Gloves
    - Goggles or face shield that covers front and sides of the face. Personal eyeglasses are not a substitute for goggles or a face shield.
    - See the [Safe PPE Use and Reuse](#) as needed
  - Limit the number of staff caring for patients per shift as feasible according to staffing, training, and competencies
    - Dietary should drop trays off with the assigned nurse
    - Phlebotomists should collect blood cultures only; if possible, nurse to collect all other blood specimens
    - Nurse to help with daily cleaning (pull trash and wipe surfaces when in room for patient care)
  - Post [CDC Donning and Doffing Guidelines](#) in a sheet protector in the anteroom or outside of the room door
  - Double-bag lab specimens before using the pneumatic tube system to transport specimens to the lab
  - Dedicate equipment to the patient whenever possible
    - Any equipment that cannot be dedicated to the patient should be cleaned and disinfected per standard procedure
  - Place disposable stethoscope in patient room

#### Important Reminders

- When donning and doffing PPE, take special care to follow [CDC Donning and Doffing Guidelines](#) to not contaminate yourself in the process. See [NM Videos](#).
- Standard hospital-approved disinfectant wipes are appropriate for disinfecting equipment and surfaces
- All procedures should be performed at the bedside whenever possible.
- If a patient needs to be transported to another location, receiving departments must be notified of patient’s isolation precautions. See the [PPE Guidelines – What to Use and When to Use it](#) for guidance on PPE during patient transport and procedures
- Linen requires no special handling
- See the [visitor policy](#) for questions pertaining to visitors and compassionate exceptions.
- See [here](#) for information on discontinuation of transmission-based precautions for positive or presumed COVID patients.

**Infection Prevention on-call can be paged 24/7 for any questions or concerns at:**

**WEST - CDH/Delnor/Kish/VW/Marianjoy/RMG 630.255.1293**

**CENTRAL - NMH/NMG 312.695.9196**

**NORTH-NORTHWEST - LFH/McHenry/Huntley/Woodstock 312.695.9483**