

COVID Forensic Patient Guidelines

The following information is in addition to NMHC Forensic Patient Policy and Procedure (06.0004)

Security: Expectations for Correctional Officer(s) will not change in the event of a COVID or COVID rule out (suspected) forensic patient.

- Correctional Officer(s) will be with the patient
- Positioned between patient and door
- Standing at bedside when hospital staff enters the room and until staff leaves
- Door remains closed for COVID forensic patients
- Remain with patient and keep patient in sight at all times
- Shackles (provided by law enforcement):
 - One form of shackles on the prisoner at all times unless requested by clinical staff for treatment purposes
 - During any transport minimum of 2-point shackles
 - Additional restraints will be applied based on the patient's behavior or staff's clinical judgment
- Personal cell phones or electronic devices will be used for official business only
- Law enforcement will be awake and attentive

Infection Prevention: Correctional officers will follow the same PPE guidelines set for NM staff. NM will provide necessary PPE.

- In the event the forensic patient has no aerosol-generating procedures anticipated the correctional officer will don usual Covid-19 PPE (this can be any standard room, non-Airborne Infection Isolation Room):
 - Droplet precautions (procedure mask)
 - Contact precautions (gown and gloves)
 - Eye protection (goggles or face shield)
- In the event that there is a forensic patient with aerosol-generating procedures anticipated, the correctional officer will don (all ICU patients are in this category; must be in Airborne Infection Isolation Room or negative pressure unit):
 - Airborne precautions (N95 or PAPR always)
 - Contact precaution (gown, gloves)
 - Eye protection (goggles or face shield)

Correctional Officer Screening: Northwestern Medicine screening questions should be cross checked for the Correctional Officer at the point of entry, and if possible over the phone prior to the Corrections Officer arriving.

- This means that whoever first receives the correctional officer in the Emergency Department should screen them. We should do everything we can to have Correctional Officer screening results discussed via phone PRIOR to transfer or upon entrance to the building. If the Correctional Officer is entering the hospital with a patient for the first time and screens positive, he/she would need to immediately mask and remain in the room with the patient until a replacement arrives.
- NM Security will coordinate Correctional Officer shift change and ensure that the replacement Correctional Officer understands the appropriate entrance to use and escort them through the staff screening process. If the Correctional Officer entering is relieving a Correctional Officer who is already on the floor and screens positive, he/she may NOT go up to the floor, and the current Correctional Officer would need to remain in place until replacement arrives.

Corrections Officer Screening continued:

- NM screening questions include:
 - Do you have common symptoms of COVID-19: cough (new or worsening), sore throat, shortness of breath or temperature above 100 degrees F?
 - Have you taken any fever-reducing medication within the past 24 hours to reduce your fever?
 - Since you last worked, has someone in your household been diagnosed with COVID-19?
 - Do you have new or worsening loss of taste or smell?

Forensic Patient Huddle: Correctional Officers should be given their appropriate PPE at the point of entry during the Forensic Patient huddle.

- This is the time to educate the Correctional Officer on what they will need as it relates to PPE and infection prevention measures. During the huddle orientation the Correctional Officer will be educated on how to do the seal test (if using a N95 respirator) using the seal test educational resources (see attached).
- The Correctional Officer should also follow the same PPE guidelines and PPE conservation guidelines that are in place for staff.
- It is recommended to institute an additional huddle on the unit when a Correctional Officer's shift has concluded and a relief Correctional Officer changes out for the COVID or COVID rule out forensic patient.
 - This is the time to educate the corrections team on what they will need to as it relates to PPE/ infection prevention measures. During the forensic patient huddle orientation, the Correctional Officer will be educated on how to do the seal test (if using a N95 respirator) using the seal test educational resources (see attached).
 - The Correctional Officer should also follow the same PPE conservation guidelines that are in place for staff.