

NM Healthcare Epidemiology and Infection Prevention
Inpatient Care Information for Confirmed COVID-19 Patients or COVID-19 Persons Under Investigation (PUI)

Added March 10

- ☐ Place patient in an airborne infection isolation (AII) (negative airflow) room and post “Acute Respiratory Illness Isolation Precautions” sign on door (Green Sign).
 - Patient must be cared for under standard, contact and airborne isolation precautions with eye protection.
- ☐ Stock all required PPE in an isolation cart in the anteroom – NOTE: PPE cannot be reused for the same patient during shift, including the N95 respirator.
 - N95 Respirators
 - Gowns
 - Gloves
 - Disposable goggles or face shield that covers front and sides of the face. Personal eyeglasses are not a substitute for goggles or a face shield.
- ☐ Limit staff caring for patients.
 - Assign one nurse to patient.
 - No PCT will be assigned.
 - Dietary should drop off trays at the nursing station.
 - Nursing to draw all labs.
 - EVS may enter room to perform housekeeping functions.
- ☐ Place **entry log** in the anteroom.
- ☐ Post [CDC Donning and Doffing Guidelines](#) in a sheet protector in the anteroom.
- ☐ All persons who enter the room must sign the entry log each and every time they enter the room (including physicians, EVS, etc.).
- ☐ Hand deliver all lab specimens to Specimen Receiving. Do not use pneumatic tube system.
- ☐ Dedicate equipment to the patient, including Dynamaps.
 - Any equipment that cannot be dedicated to the patient should be cleaned and disinfected per standard procedure.
- ☐ Place disposable stethoscope in patient room.
- ☐ Remind staff that protection of health information is a priority.

Important Reminders

- When donning and doffing PPE, take special care to follow CDC Donning and Doffing Guidelines to not contaminate yourself in the process.
 - Donning reminder: perform an N95 respirator seal check prior to entering the room. Tie gown in the back.
 - Doffing reminder: grasp gown at the front and pull away slowly and carefully, rolling inside out while taking your gloves off at the same time. Do not touch front of goggles, face shield or N95 respirator while doffing.
- Standard hospital-approved disinfectant wipes are appropriate for disinfecting equipment and surfaces.
- All procedures should be performed at the bedside. For any procedure that cannot be performed at the bedside, patient must be transported in a surgical/procedure mask with a clean patient gown and clean bedding. Receiving departments must be notified of patient’s isolation precautions.
- Linen requires no special handling.
- Food can be served on regular trays and do not require any special disposal.
- Visitors are not permitted. Any exceptions must be approved by Infection Prevention. If an exception is made, visitors must wear a surgical mask, gown, gloves, and goggles or face shield.
- Communicate with EVS if waste containers in patient room and anteroom are three-fourths full. Trash and linen bags must be secured prior to removal from patient room.