

Health Advisory: COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare

Minnesota Department of Health, Thurs Mar 13 10:00 CDT 2020

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please forward to infection preventionists, infectious disease physicians, emergency department staff, hospitalists, primary care clinicians, and all other health care providers who might see patients with acute respiratory symptoms.

Health care providers:

- Reserve N-95 respirators for aerosol-generating procedures and for critically ill patients in the ICU with known or suspected COVID-19.
- Use infection prevention measures consisting of facemask, eye protection (face shield or goggles), gown, and gloves during the evaluation of, and care for, suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients.
- Care for patients with known or suspected COVID-19 in a single-person room with the door closed
- Use Airborne Precautions (N-95 respirator or equivalent, PAPR) instead of facemasks for patients undergoing aerosol-generating procedures, and for the care of patients who are critically ill in an ICU who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Reserve Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms (AIIR), if available, for patients undergoing aerosol-generating procedures.
- Review and practice donning and doffing of PPE to avoid self-contamination. See Sequence for Putting On PPE. Meticulously perform hand hygiene after removal of PPE, as well as frequently throughout the day.

On March 10, CDC issued [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#). The guidance updates personal protective equipment (PPE) and room placement recommendations for the care of COVID-19 patients. The CDC guidance discusses the use of facemasks as an acceptable alternative when supply chain of respirators cannot meet the demand.

Because additional information, infection preventionists and clinicians should review future recommendations. The importance of identifying, isolating, and informing key partners regarding a patient with symptoms of COVID-19 cannot be overstated. **Any patient presenting with a respiratory tract infection should be masked and roomed for evaluation as quickly as possible.**

*Aerosol generating procedures include but are not limited to: sputum induction, intubation, open suctioning of the respiratory tract (not using an inline suction catheter), and bronchoscopy.

For More Information

More information is available at the [CDC's Coronavirus Disease 2019 webpage](#) or by calling MDH at 651-201-5414.

A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network](#)

The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.