

COVID-19 Infection Control in the Outpatient Setting During Community Transmission

Reference Guide

The San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation (SCAHC) cares about the health and well-being of its staff, community partners, and tribal members. Therefore, we are instituting safety measures and infection control precautions as part of engineering and administrative controls to keep our healthcare workers safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic. These include: rapid identification and source control of symptomatic patients (masking, separation, and isolation when possible), strict adherence to respiratory and hand hygiene practices, training for staff on correct use of PPE, as well as social distancing, especially in high-volume areas. Strict environmental cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and equipment will also be performed to prevent the spread of infection. **All porous items that cannot be disinfected (IE: cloth blood pressure cuffs) should be removed from treatment rooms to prevent contamination and if used, immediately discarded inside the room after patient treatment.**

SCAHC recommends the use of standard, contact, and droplet precautions when caring for patients who are suspected or have been confirmed infected with Coronavirus (COVID-19) as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. When coming into close contact or caring for a patient with possible or confirmed COVID-19, personal protective equipment (PPE) should include:

- Facemask (procedure or surgical mask) AND gown AND gloves AND eye protection (goggles or face shield)
 - N95 respirator or Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) is only required for *aerosol-generating procedures* (e.g., high flow O₂, nebulizer).
- **When facemasks are limited, N-95 respirators may be used**

To minimize unnecessary exposures in the healthcare setting, all persons entering the SCAHC facility will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and will have a temperature check. This includes but is not limited to SCAHC staff, EMS, police, visitors, and patients. When possible, it is encouraged to reduce face-to-face contact with the use of video, phones, etc. Patients who can be safely managed at home should be given education to self-isolate. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html>

For more information on COVID-19 for healthcare providers, please visit the CDC's website for the most up-to-date guidance <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

For Infection Control Recommendations for Isolation and PPE use, please reference the table below. Strict adherence to these guidelines is imperative to prevent the spread of this highly contagious infectious disease.

References:

New York Department of Health (3/2019). Outpatient Infection Control Guidelines for COVID-19. <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-19-infection-control-outpatient.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>

Arizona Department of Health and Human Services (3/2019). <https://azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-healthcare-providers>



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Outpatient Facility Infection Control Recommendations				
Setting	Scenario	Patient being evaluated	Healthcare Workers	Non-Clinical Staff
All areas	Patient without fever or respiratory symptoms ¹	Standard precautions including hand hygiene	Standard precautions including hand hygiene before and after contact	Standard precautions including hand hygiene before and after contact
Waiting area	Patient with fever and respiratory symptoms	Immediately give facemask and separate from others (IE: 6 feet if possible in a different part of the waiting room if no room is available), instruct to perform hand hygiene	Wear facemask and gloves if within 6 feet of patient, perform hand hygiene before and after contact	Wear facemask and gloves if within 6 feet of patient, perform hand hygiene before and after contact
Exam room <i>Place patient with fever or respiratory symptoms in a private room whenever possible with door closed</i>	Initial evaluation of patient with fever or respiratory symptoms	Facemask (IE: surgical mask), instruct to perform hand hygiene	Facemask Gown Gloves Eye protection *N-95 to be used if generating aerosolized respiratory symptoms, perform hand hygiene before and after contact	Avoid entering the room - Facemask, gloves and avoid close contact if entry necessary
	Patient determined to be low suspicion for COVID-19 (i.e., alternate diagnosis more likely, such as allergic rhinitis)	Facemask (IE: surgical mask), instruct to perform hand hygiene	Facemask and gloves, perform hand hygiene before and after contact *expanding to full PPE if patient is unable to control cough and unable to wear a mask	Standard precautions, including hand hygiene before and after contact



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Setting	Scenario	Patient being evaluated	Healthcare Workers	Non-Clinical Staff
Exam room <i>Place patient with fever or respiratory symptoms in a private room whenever possible with door closed</i>	Patient with COVID-19 like illness*	Facemask (IE: surgical mask), instruct to perform hand hygiene	Facemask Gown Gloves Eye protection Hand hygiene before and after contact	Avoid entering the room. Facemask, gloves and avoid close contact if entry necessary
	Specimen collection for COVID-19 testing (nasopharyngeal/oropharyngeal swabs)	Facemask; only remove for specimen collection	Facemask Gown Gloves Eye protection Hand hygiene before and after contact	Do not enter room during procedure
	Any aerosol generating procedure with symptomatic patient (e.g., high flow oxygen, nebulizer); <i>avoid whenever possible</i>	Facemask when possible; only remove when necessary for treatment	Minimize close contact (<6 ft) N-95 gown Gloves Eye protection Hand hygiene before and after contact	Do not enter room during procedure
All areas Environmental Cleaning	Room cleaning after a patient with possible COVID-19 vacates room - Can enter room immediately after patient leaves.		Facemask Gown Gloves Eye protection if risk of splash Hand hygiene before and after entering/exiting	Facemask Gown Gloves Eye protection if risk of splash Hand hygiene before and after contact

COVID-19 LIKE ILLNESS* = new onset of subjective or measured ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ or 38°C) **fever OR cough OR shortness of breath OR sore throat** that cannot be attributed to an underlying or previously recognized condition. (In children, fever with sore throat may be attributable to conditions other than COVID-19 (e.g., strep throat) and parent/guardian should consult a healthcare provider

CONFIRMED COVID-19 = Ill person who tests positive for COVID-19 **POSSIBLE COVID-19** = Person with COVID-19 like illness but for whom there is not a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis.