

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19
COMMITTEE**

Bulletin #99b – COVID-19 – Care for Confirmed COVID-19 Patients – Dec 21 2020

**COVID-19 Infection Prevention & Control Guidance:
Health care workers (HCWs) providing care to confirmed COVID-19 patients**

In alignment with the [IPC Guidance for the Management of Suspect/Confirmed COVID-19 Patients \(All Phases\)](#):

- The number of HCWs caring for individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be minimized whenever possible.
- All HCWs working on a unit, where there is at least **one positive** COVID-19 patient should wear OR scrubs for the duration of their shift. This also applies to multidisciplinary team members who are often assigned to provide direct patient care on multiple units.
- Dedicated resources / HCWs must be assigned for the management of COVID-19 patients.
- An HCW can be assigned to care for COVID-19 positive patients for a shift, and then be scheduled to work with other patients during a subsequent shift.
- As a last resort, if there is no ability to dedicate staff, patient care should be planned to proceed from non-COVID-19 patients to confirmed COVID-19 patients. If there is no breach in PPE protocol, the HCW will change their scrubs and continue to provide care for other patients on the unit during the same shift.
- If a breach in PPE protocol occurs, the HCW is encouraged to shower and change their scrubs and don a clean mask prior to moving on to provide care to non-COVID-19 patients.