

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

**October 8, 2021**

**Bulletin #174b: ID-IPC Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required when caring for  
Suspect/Confirmed COVID-19 Patients**

## **COVID-19 Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) Guidance Documents**

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required when caring for Suspect/Confirmed COVID-19 Patients**

Prior to every patient interaction, healthcare workers (HCWs) have a responsibility to perform a Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) to assess the infectious risk posed to themselves and others. A PCRA will help determine the correct PPE required to protect the HCW in their interaction with the patient and patient environment.

The use of Droplet/Contact Precautions (medical grade face mask, gown, gloves, eye protection) are recommended for all HCWs when caring for patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19.

Full Precautions are followed when caring for suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients and aerosol-generating medical procedures (AGMPs) are being performed. A fit-tested and seal-checked N95 respirator is worn in place of a medical grade face mask in addition to gloves, gown, and eye protection.

An AGMP is a medical procedure that can generate aerosols as a result of artificial manipulation of a person's airway. The risk of transmission of infection may increase during AGMPs due to the potential to generate a high volume of respiratory aerosols that may be propelled over a longer distance than that involved in natural dispersion patterns.

To prevent transmission of infection associated with aerosols produced by AGMPs such as endotracheal intubation/extubation, CPR, etc. the [Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Performing an Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure During Patient Resuscitation and Other Scenarios](#) guides the management of all patients receiving an AGMP in all patient care areas.

N95 respirators are required when providing care to suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients following Full Precautions in the following settings:

- When providing direct patient care to a patient with suspect or confirmed COVID-19 during an AGMP.
- When in a patient care area/room where a suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patient is being managed and an AGMP is being performed.

Please refer to the [Infection Prevention & Control Guidance: Management of Suspect/Confirmed COVID-19 Patients](#) posted under the [IPC Resources COVID-19 Skyline Page](#).