

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

Bulletin #208b – COVID-19 – ID-IPC – IPC Guidance Update – Orange Phase – July 28 2022

Revisions to IPC Guidance: Operating Room Theatres and OR Decision Pathway for Horizon Facilities in IPC Orange Phase Effective Aug. 1, 2022

Effective Aug. 1, 2022, the ID/IPC COVID-19 Committee recommends resuming routine pre-op testing for all patients due to the increased in COVID-19 activities. The guidelines have been revised to reflect the following:

- Obtain COVID-19 swab for patients 48 hrs prior to surgery. A PCR test received up to 72 hrs remains acceptable and these patients will be required to self-isolate between the COVID-19 test date and their surgery date. This testing is to determine if it is safe to proceed to surgery.
- Patients scheduled for Day of Surgery Admission qualify for a rapid PCR test using the GeneXpert platform, as these patients meet the criteria for a rapid PCR test on admission. If the resources are not available to perform a rapid PCR test using the GeneXpert platform, a PCR test performed within 48 hrs is acceptable.

Recreation activities / live music in long term care units and facilities in IPC Orange Phase

The ID/IPC COVID-19 Committee was asked to consider if recreational activities and allowing live performers to entertain patients within LTC units and facilities could resume in the IPC Orange Phase. The Committee supported that these activities could be safely reintroduced as long as IPC practices are followed.

Continuous masking for inpatients during IPC Red and Orange Phases

To mitigate risks for patients, the ID/IPC COVID-19 Committee recommends the following practice:

- **Masking required:**
 - Inpatients who leave their room or bedspace and those who cannot maintain physical distance (Addiction and Mental Health) will be required to wear a face mask.
 - All outpatients will be provided with a medical grade face mask by the screeners at facility entrances.
- **Masking encouraged but not mandated:**
 - Inpatients will be provided with a medical grade face mask and will be encouraged to wear the mask while awake and as tolerated, when someone (health care worker, Designated Support Person, and/or social visitor) enters their room or bedspace during IPC Orange Phase.

NOTE: Masks should not be used for patients who have difficulty breathing or who are unable to remove the mask on their own (e.g., due to decreased level of consciousness, physical ability, young age, mental illness, or cognitive impairment).

Please visit the [IPC Resources COVID-19 Skyline Page](#) for COVID-19 information.