



Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



Infection Control Guidelines on the Management of Critical Adults with COVID-19

March 26, 2020

Guidelines adapted from European Society of Intensive Care Medicine and the Society of Critical Care Medicine *Guidelines on the Management of Critically Ill Adults with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)* and the Ministry of Health Policy *Infection Prevention and Control for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)*. This document provides specific detail around infection control for critical care and is in addition to the *COVID-19: Emergency Prioritization in a Pandemic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Allocation Framework*.

Guideline Scope:

These guidelines supplement the Ministry of Health Policy *Infection Prevention and Control for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)* to provide recommendations to support clinicians managing critically ill adults with COVID-19 in the intensive care unit (ICU). The target users of these guidelines are frontline clinicians, allied health professionals and policymakers involved in the care of patients with COVID-19 in the ICU.

Guidelines:

1. For healthcare workers performing **aerosol-generating procedures*** on patients with COVID-19 in the ICU, we **recommend** using **fitted respirator masks (N95 respirators, FFP2 or equivalent)**, as opposed to surgical/medical masks, in addition to other personal protective equipment (i.e. gloves, gown and eye protection, such as face shield or safety goggles).

*Aerosol-generating procedures in the ICU include: endotracheal intubation, bronchoscopy, open suctioning, administration of nebulized treatment, manual ventilation before intubation, physical proning of the patient, disconnecting the patient from the ventilator, non-invasive positive pressure ventilation, tracheostomy, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
2. We **recommend** performing **aerosol-generating procedures** on ICU patients with COVID-19 in a negative pressure room.
3. For healthcare workers providing usual care for non-ventilated COVID-19 patients, we **suggest** using surgical/medical masks, as opposed to respirator masks, in addition to other personal protective equipment (i.e. gloves, gown and eye protection, such as a face shield or safety goggles).



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If you have fever, a new cough, or are having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1.



4. For healthcare workers who are performing **non-aerosol-generating procedures** on mechanically ventilated (closed circuit) patients with COVID-19, we **suggest** using **surgical masks or fitted respirator masks (N95 respirators, FFP2 or equivalent)**, in addition to other personal protective equipment (i.e. gloves, gown and eye protection, such as a face shield or safety goggles).
5. For healthcare workers performing **endotracheal intubation** on patients with COVID-19, we **suggest** using video-guided laryngoscopy, over direct laryngoscopy, if available.
6. For COVID-19 patients requiring **endotracheal intubation**, we **recommend** that endotracheal intubation be performed by the healthcare worker who is most experienced with airway management in order to minimize the number of attempts and risk of transmission.
7. Diligent hand hygiene is essential to preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. Wash your hands with plain soap and warm water for 20-30 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

For list of COVID-19 guidance and resource materials, see Ministry of Health Policy [Infection Prevention and Control for Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) – Appendix A.

Selection and Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

See Public Health Agency of Canada's [Infection prevention and control for coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Interim guidance for acute healthcare settings](#) – section 10.

- Use of Surgical/Procedural Masks:
 - See Ministry of Health Policy [Infection Prevention and Control for Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Note: highest risk of contamination is doffing. High-risk areas include inner hands, glove area, face and scrubs.

References:

Alhazzani, W., Moller, M.H., et al. (2020). *Surviving Sepsis Campaign: Guidelines on the Management of Critically Ill Adults with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)*. European Society of Intensive Care Medicine and the Society of Critical Care Medicine.

Ministry of Health (updated March 20, 2020). *Infection Prevention and Control for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)*. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/reports-publications/covid-19-infection-prevention-control.pdf>

Public Health Agency of Canada. [Infection prevention and control for coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Interim guidance for acute healthcare settings](#)

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