

COVID-19 Protocol Updates

Nursing Supervisor, Admitting, Patient Placement FAQ

As of **Thursday February 1, 2024** there will be minor modifications to the COVID-19 protocols as follows:

1) HFNC, mechanical ventilation, noninvasive ventilation, endoscopy, and transesophageal echocardiogram will be removed from the aerosol generating procedure (AGP) list

- Emerging evidence demonstrates that these procedures are not aerosol generating procedures.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (including N95-level respiratory protection, eye protection, gown, and gloves) will continue to be required for all patients on Novel Respiratory Isolation (NRI).

2) For any patient on NRI receiving any AGP, an AIIR/negative pressure room is recommended, when available.

- The continuous AGP category will be removed.
- For patients on NRI, a private room with the door closed will continue to be required and these patients should not be placed in positive pressure rooms (e.g., protected environment rooms on 11/12 Long or C6 BMT and PICU rooms 1, 2, and 15).
- Practical tips: This is not a significant change from current state given the overall limited number of AIIR/negative pressure rooms. Some considerations include:
 - For initial room placement
 - Patients with proven or suspected measles, TB, or varicella/disseminated zoster should be prioritized and placed in an AIIR/negative pressure room.
 - For patients on NRI who are receiving or will receive AGPs should be preferentially placed in an AIIR/negative pressure room, if available (including patients with a tracheostomy/laryngostoma, those requiring chest physiotherapy, etc.)
 - For patients on NRI who are already admitted and are scheduled to have an AGP (e.g. bronchoscopy, extubation/intubation procedures)
 - If based on a risk assessment, the downsides of moving a patient outweigh the potential risks of COVID transmission, they can remain in a non-AIIR private room on NRI with the door closed as much as possible during the AGP.

3) Novel Respiratory Isolation (NRI) order in APeX

- Patients with COVID-19, with symptoms consistent with COVID pending evaluation or who are COVID-19 exposed will continue to need a Novel Respiratory Isolation (NRI) order in APeX.
- Patients on NRI who are receiving any AGP will no longer need an Airborne Isolation order in APeX.

Accept

Select all new or additional isolation orders that apply below.
Which Isolation type should you order? Examples are below:

COVID+ or Symptomatic Patient with Suspected COVID Isolation options:

- **Novel Respiratory Isolation** for COVID+, symptomatic patient with suspected COVID who are undergoing evaluation, and those who are COVID exposed.
- If the patient is receiving [aerosol-generating procedures \(AGPs\)](#), preferred placement is in a negative pressure airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) when available.

4) The NRI PPE will be updated to specify eye protection (plus N95 (or PAPR) and gloves/gowns)

- Current NRI PPE specifies the use of a *face shield* (plus the other PPE as noted above). Changing from a face shield to eye protection (plus the other PPE as noted above) does not change the risk of transmission and aligns with current practice.

Relevant References

[AGP and PPE table](#)

[Novel Respiratory Isolation sign](#)