

Asymptomatic Patients with Pending COVID-19 Tests Admitted at PARN

Hospital Epidemiology & Infection Prevention recommendations for asymptomatic patients with COVID tests that are pending and who are admitted at Parnassus:

1. Parnassus **Emergency Department** (ED) and Clinical Decision Unit (CDU):
 - Droplet isolation: patient masked; healthcare provider (HCP) masked with eye protection
 - Patients may be in semi-private ED room or CDU with curtain pulled between beds
 - Patients should **not** be placed in hallway spaces; in the event of surge that exceeds space capacity, patients may be placed in hallways provided that:
 - All inpatient capacity is used for boarded ED patients
 - Priority for hallways is given to asymptomatic patients with a resulted negative COVID test *and* asymptomatic patients with a plan for discharge from the ED
 - All hallway patients are masked; inability to wear or keep on a mask will exclude patient from hallway
2. Parnassus **Inpatient Units**:
 - Droplet isolation: patient masked; HCP masked with eye protection
 - Patients can be cohorted in semi-private rooms if patients are masked
 - Per CDC criteria, a masked patient who screens positive constitutes a low-risk exposure for patients sharing the room and for HCPs caring for the patients
 - Patients sharing the room and HCPs will self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days
 - Patients in shared rooms may brush teeth in their bed (not at sink) and use the shared bathroom if masked and washing hands thoroughly; patients should wait to shower until after test results
 - Patients who screen negative may be safely cohorted in semi-private rooms
 - Patients who screen positive are moved to an isolation space immediately; any patients sharing the room are moved out to a different room

Central Patient Placement policies and procedures for assignment of inpatient rooms for asymptomatic ED patients with COVID test pending

1. Room assignment (and patient transport) is **not** delayed pending a COVID test result
2. **Units excluded from semi-private room policy** for asymptomatic patients with COVID test pending:
 - 11/12L
 - 9L
 - 10CVT (if a transplant patient <1 year is in a semi-private room)
 - 8N ICU
3. Criteria for prioritizing assignment of semi-private rooms
 - Private room placement first, then semi-private (blocking the other bed)
 - When private rooms or single patients in semi-private rooms are no longer available, patients will be placed in semi-private rooms (without other room blocked); both patients will be masked in accordance with HEIP recommendations above
4. Exclusion criteria for semi-private rooms
 - Altered mental status/Confusion
 - Inability to tolerate mask
 - 5150/5250
 - Immunosuppressed (including active chemotherapy, solid organ or stem-cell transplant)
 - End of life
 - Ongoing aerosol-generating procedures (nebulized medications, high-flow nasal cannula)

References: [UCSF Infection Prevention: COVID-19 Clinical Resources](#)

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