

## 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**

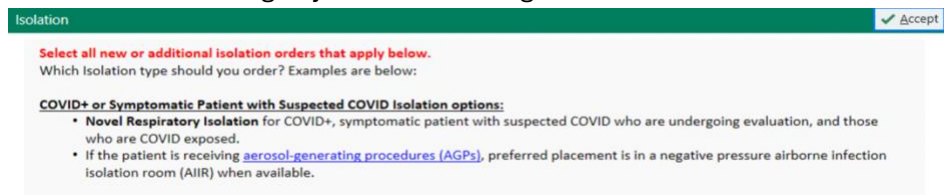
- Emerging evidence demonstrates that these procedures are not aerosol generating procedures.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (including N95-level respiratory protection, eye protection, gown, and gloves) will continue to be required for all patients on Novel Respiratory Isolation (NRI).

**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.



**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](#)