

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



To: All Hospital and Health Research Institute staff and professional staff

From: Stephanie Erickson, Acting Manager Infection Prevention and Control

Date: April 17, 2020

RE: **PPE Requirements and Process for the Dedicated COVID-19 Care Unit**

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community is our utmost priority. In addition to following all priority practices of frequent hand washing and physical distancing of two meters, the following PPE requirements and procedures for the **COVID-19 Care Unit on 3A (3A)** have been put in place to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus for yourself, and others.

To reduce movement throughout the hospital as much as possible, staff and professional staff who require access to 3A or are exiting from 3A are asked to take the most direct route.

Appropriate donning, doffing, and emergency donning/doffing areas have been created on the unit, and will be stocked with appropriate levels PPE for your use.

Upon entry to 3A, all staff and professional staff must enter the designated **DONNING Room** (3A-1: located in the first room on the right when entering), and put on the appropriate PPE. Once patient care, tasks, and duties have been completed, all staff must enter the designated **DOFFING Room** (3A-4: "former staff room") and remove all PPE and perform appropriate hand hygiene before exiting the unit.

Described below are instructions for performing care or completing duties on the Dedicated COVID-19 Care unit by staff designation:

NURSES:

- An "Emergency" donning/doffing area is available (3A-13: treatment room) in the scenario that donning/doffing will need to occur quickly in emergent situations.
- PPE for contact/droplet precautions will be worn by **all nurses at all times** while on the COVID-19 unit. PPE will be donned **before** entering the floor, in the designated donning area. PPE will be doffed **upon exiting** the floor in the designated doffing area.
- Nurses designated to either area (COVID-19 positive or presumptive) **must** change their gloves and perform hand hygiene in between each patient.
- If a nurse who is designated to COVID-19 presumptive patients is needed to assist in the COVID-19 positive area, gloves are to be changed and hand hygiene is to be

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performed. This nurse **must** change full PPE before returning back to the presumptive area.

- If a nurse who is designated to COVID-19 positive patients needs to move to assist in the presumptive area, full PPE **must** be changed before entering the area. This nurse **must** change their gloves and perform hand hygiene before returning to the COVID-19 positive area.
- Dedicated equipment should be used whenever possible. If not possible, equipment **must** be cleaned and disinfected after patient use.

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND SUPPORT STAFF:

- PPE for contact/droplet precautions will be worn by **all allied health professional and support staff at all times** while on the COVID-19 unit. PPE will be donned **before** entering the floor, in the designated donning area. PPE will be doffed **upon exiting** the floor in the designated doffing area.
- An “Emergency” donning/doffing area is available (3A-13: treatment room) in the scenario that donning/doffing will need to occur quickly in emergent situations.
- Support staff moving around on 3A must change their gloves and perform hand hygiene in between each patient.
- If support staff are moving from patient to patient, they must plan their activities moving from the presumptive patients first, then onto the COVID-19 positive patients. If a STAT test or procedure is required on a positive patient, staff must change their gloves and perform hand hygiene. They must change their full PPE appropriately **before** moving back to the presumptive rooms.
- Housekeeping should move from the COVID-19 presumptive areas to the COVID-19 positive areas. If a COVID-19 positive room is to be cleaned STAT, housekeeping staff **must** change their gloves and perform hand hygiene. They **must** change their full PPE before returning to the presumptive rooms.
- Dedicated equipment should be used whenever possible. If not possible, equipment must be cleaned and disinfected after patient use.
- It is acceptable for support staff to doff their PPE and exit the floor once hand hygiene practices are complete. Support staff may return to their home departments.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How do staff care for MRSA/VRE/ESBL patients who are COVID-19 positive or presumptive?

If treating a COVID-19 positive or presumptive patient who also requires precautions for MRSA/VRE/ESBL, gloves are to be changed and hand hygiene is to be performed (as per routine practices) before moving onto the next patient. Gowns/masks/eye protection are not required to be changed.

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How do staff care for a C.diff patient who is COVID-19 positive or presumptive?

If treating a COVID-19 positive or presumptive patient who also requires precautions for C.diff, full PPE is to be changed and hand hygiene is to be performed upon entry and exit from the room. These type of patients are not to be cohorted with another patient.

How do staff care for a Tuberculosis patient (or patient with another airborne illness) who is COVID-19 positive or presumptive?

If treating a COVID-19 positive or presumptive patient who also requires precautions for Tuberculosis or another airborne illness, full PPE is to be changed and hand hygiene is to be performed upon entry and exit from the room. These type of patients are not to be cohorted with another patient.

Once PPE has been doffed appropriately and the staff member has performed hand hygiene, you are able to move to other areas of the hospital for lunch or break purposes.

To support all staff with questions you may have in relation to donning and doffing PPE; Ian Casey has been designated as the Infection Control Practitioner and will be available to support the Dedicated COVID-19 Care Unit.

For further information please contact Stephanie Erickson, Acting Manager Infection Prevention and Control at ericksos@tbh.net.

All Hospital COVID-19 updates are available on the iNtranet at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>.

For more information about COVID-19, please contact the Thunder Bay District Health Unit at 1-888-294-6630 or www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus. More information is also available at <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-coronavirus-info-sheet-english-2020-02-18.pdf>.