

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



To: All Staff, Professional Staff, Learners and Volunteers

From: Meaghan Sharp on behalf of Dr. Peter Voros, EVP In-Patient Care Programs

Date: July 30, 2021

RE: **Update: Physical Distancing and PPE Guidelines for Renal and ED**

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community has been our top priority throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Hospital is operating under Internal Response Level Green, physical distancing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidelines have been updated for both departments.

Updated Recommendations for PPE and physical distancing in the Renal and Emergency Department (ED) while in *Response Levels GREEN and YELLOW* are as follows:

Masks and Goggles:

- Staff are required to wear a level 2 procedure mask and Goggles at all times while in Patient care areas. Staff can remove masks while eating in designated areas (please see Physical distancing Guidelines for level Green)
- If an Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure (AGMP) is to be performed, staff are required to conduct a Patient Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) to determine appropriate PPE including a N95 mask.
- Patients and Care Partners/Essential Care Partners will wear level 2 procedure masks as per policy.

Gowns:

- Staff are no longer required to wear gowns in Patient Care area unless caring for a patient under additional precautions and based on their PCRA.
- Staff will wear appropriate PPE as required by infection control Policy IPC-1-18.
- For confirmed or suspected COVID-19, staff are to wear level 2 disposable Gown, Gloves, Level 2 Procedure Mask, and Goggles (contact/droplet precautions).

Physical Distancing in waiting areas:

- Seating in waiting rooms and waiting areas should be occupied to enable people to sit 2 meters apart if possible. If not possible due to the volume of people in the area, this distance can be decreased as long as everyone is wearing a level 2 procedure mask. (Waiting areas include the main waiting room, hallway waiting areas inside of the ED)
- All occupants of a waiting area must wear a level 2 procedure mask as per hospital policy.

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Screening:

- ED will continue to actively screen all Patients and Essential Care Partners. If a Patient fails screening, use appropriate precautions for treatment, or until Physician clears patient as no longer suspected of COVID-19 or COVID-19 testing is negative (must be cleared by Infection Control Practitioner if admitted).

Hospital Provided Scrubs and Reusable Gowns:

- In level Yellow and Green, hospital provided scrubs and the reusable gowns will be returned to the Pandemic Supply.

Please note that all areas of the Renal and Emergency Department should be considered Patient care areas except for administration office area, locker area, and break areas.

Please review and familiarize yourself with the attached Guidance Document for more information.

Thank you for your continued commitment to health and safety.

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