

# Transport of Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 Patients

## Preparing for patient transport:

- Sending department should notify the receiving department that the patient is on isolation precautions for suspected/confirmed COVID-19.
  - If appropriate, notify the Transport Department/Staff that the patient is on isolation precautions for suspected/confirmed COVID-19.
  - If a hospital has designated transport staff, efforts should be made to prevent the transport staff from entering the room of patients in Enhanced Precautions – Airborne.

## In the patient's room:

- Adhere to isolation precautions and wear the appropriate PPE as indicated on the isolation sign during transfer and positioning of the patient for transport.
  - **Transport of a patient in Enhanced Precautions - Droplet:**
    - Perform hand hygiene
    - Don PPE (surgical mask, gown, gloves, and eye protection)
    - Enter the patient's room to prepare for transport
  - **Transport of a patient in Enhanced Precautions – Airborne:**
    - Perform hand hygiene
    - Don PPE (N95 respirator\*, gown, gloves, and eye protection)
    - Enter the patient's room to prepare for transport
- Equipment required for patient care and transport should be wiped with a hospital approved disinfecting wipe prior to exiting the patient's room.
- A new clean sheet/blanket should be placed over the patient (including their toes) prior to transport.
- Patient (including those with a nasal cannula or oxymizer) must wear a surgical/procedural mask at all times during transport and outside of the patient's room. Do NOT place a N95 respirator on the patient.
  - The patient's mask may be reused throughout their hospital stay and should be stored and labeled in the patient's room; the mask should be discarded when visibly soiled and at patient discharge.
  - If patients cannot tolerate a facemask or one is not available, they should use tissues to cover their mouth and nose. If unable to self-cover with tissue, clinical staff should hold and cover for them wearing the appropriate PPE.
- The patient should perform hand hygiene before leaving the room if possible.

## Outside the patient's room:

- Staff should continue to wear a surgical/procedural mask or N95 respirator\* during patient transport.
- All other PPE (gown, gloves) should be removed after use and hand hygiene performed upon exiting the patient's room.

\*N95 respirator= N95 respirator, half facepiece reusable respirator or PAPR  
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- Additional PPE should not be required unless there is an anticipated need to provide medical assistance during transport (e.g., helping the patient replace a dislodged facemask). If multiple HCWs are needed to support patient transport:
  - There must be one HCW/runner on the transport team not wearing a gown and gloves and they must have clean hands to assist with touching surfaces during transport (e.g., elevator button, door handle).
  - The other assisting HCWs may continue to wear the appropriate PPE (gown, gloves, surgical mask or N95 respirator, and eye protection). They are the designated responders for the patient during transport and/or emergency.
    - If patient is being transported while undergoing an aerosol generating procedure/treatment, it is recommended that transport staff wear a N95 respirator.