

COVID-19 Infection Control and PPE Update



Access the accompanying webcast at sccm.org/covid19ppeupdate.



Eliminate the Hazard

- Screen patients, visitors, and healthcare personnel
- Optimize eICU platforms in new ways to prevent reentry
- Vaccinate to prevent COVID-19 and hospitalizations

Isolate From the Hazard

- Prioritize airborne isolation infection rooms (AIIRs)
- Perform aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs) in AIIRs, if possible
- Properly maintain ventilation systems
- Add physical barriers
- Practice source control (e.g., respirators, masks)

Alternatives for Insufficient AIIRs

- Consider adding portable HEPA filter machines
- Convert entire units to negative pressure
- When using a regular room, keep the door closed and use a respirator during and for 1 hour after performing AGPs

Change the Way People Work With Administrative Controls

- Cohort patients
- Minimize in-room staff
- Remote monitoring (e.g., pull data from monitors)

Protect Workers With PPE

- Expand the use of respirators beyond the need for AIIR/negative pressure
- Consider all respirator types since inventory is supply chain dependent (e.g., disposables, elastomeric reusables, powered air-purifying respirators)

When to Cease Isolation

- Symptom-based strategy is appropriate for most patients; 10 days if not severely ill or immune compromised, afebrile, and symptoms improving

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