

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR TRANSPORT AND ELEVATOR POLICY NO. 478D  
CLEANING, POST AEROSOLIZING COVID-19 PATIENT

PURPOSE:

To describe infection control practices and provide guidance if there is a risk of an aerosol-generating event for a Person Under Investigation (PUI) and/or confirmed COVID positive patient who is transported in an elevator.

POLICY:

Environmental Services, providers, nurses, and other health care professionals will follow these infection control practices when transporting a patient if there is a risk of aerosolization in the elevator.

PROCEDURE:

The patient should remain in his/her room at all times and only be transported when absolutely necessary. If a patient must leave the room, then the following procedures should be followed if there is a risk of aerosolizing:

1. Unit staff will notify the receiving department that the patient is a PUI or is confirmed COVID positive. The receiving area will need to implement Droplet or Airborne (as indicated) and contact precautions with eye protection.
2. If there is a risk of aerosolization in the elevator (e.g., patient has non-rebreather mask, high-flow oxygen, CPR, CPAP/BiPaP) or nonadherence with surgical masking is anticipated (e.g., pediatric or confused patient) during transport, unit staff will page the Environmental Services Supervisor at (310) 225-7248 to directly inform them of the location of the patient (e.g., unit).
3. Ensure that equipment used for transport (wheelchair, gurney, transport monitor) is already clean/disinfected prior to moving the patient.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/20

SUPERSEDES:

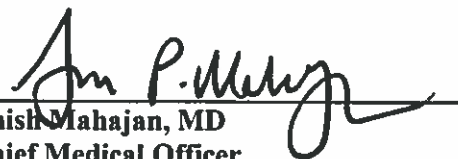
REVISED:


REVIEWED: 5/20

REVIEWED COMMITTEE: Infection Control and Prevention Comm.

APPROVED BY:

  
 Kim McKenzie, RN, MSN, CPHQ  
 Chief Executive Officer

  
 Anish Mahajan, MD  
 Chief Medical Officer

  
 Nancy Blake, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN  
 Chief Nursing Officer

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For Patients:

1. Place a surgical mask on the patient for transport.  
**NOTE:** If the patient is intubated, this is not considered aerosolizing as it is a closed ventilator circuit. As well, an inline filter is in place.
2. Wounds must be covered, and body fluids contained. The patient should wear a clean gown and be completely covered by a clean sheet that was not stored in the room, before leaving the room.

For Staff:

1. All staff involved should don appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (gown, gloves, mask, goggles and/or face shield) in the room while preparing the patient for transport. Once the patient is ready for transport, staff should remove gowns and gloves and perform hand hygiene. Mask and face shield or goggles should remain donned.
2. While PPE is not recommended for patient transport, staff transporting a PUI/confirmed COVID positive patient with risk of aerosolizing should wear a mask and face shield (or goggles) during transport, but should not wear gloves and gown. Carry additional gown and gloves in case an emergency occurs.
4. A staff member should ensure that the elevator is called and is clear during transport.
5. There must be an additional member of the transport team who has ungloved clean hands to interact with the environment (e.g., elevator buttons, closed doors).
6. Once the patient is transferred back to his/her room, staff will clean and disinfect the transport equipment with hospital-approved products.

The Environmental Services Supervisor will:

1. Respond to the page to obtain the meeting location (e.g., unit).
2. Go to the designated unit/area and get gloves, gown, mask and face shield or goggles.
3. Walk to the elevator at the same time as the transport team.
4. Wear a mask and face shield or goggles during transport.
5. Insert the elevator key and lock for transport to the receiving location.
6. Insert the elevator key again and lock the elevator in location once the transport team exits the elevator for cleaning purposes.
7. Don the gown and gloves before cleaning the elevator.
8. Apply caution tape or "Closed for Service" sign and close off the elevator until it is cleaned.
9. With the door closed, wipe down the interior elevator surfaces using the facility-approved cleaning disinfectant.
10. After cleaning is complete remove gown, gloves, and eye protection and perform hand hygiene. Unlock the elevator and place elevator back into service.
11. Remove the caution tape and/or "Closed for Service" sign.