

COVID-19 Update

Employee and Physician Information



Memo from Infection Prevention and Control

February 15, 2022

To: All Staff

Re: New Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGMP) Guidelines

The “*Newfoundland and Labrador’s Guideline for Prioritization and Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Pandemic COVID-19 in Low Prevalence Period and Increasing or Widespread Community Prevalence Period*” has been updated.

Based on this document and as we continue to have widespread community transmission of COVID-19, the following directions apply for all aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs):

- Droplet/Contact/Airborne precautions should be followed for the performance of AGMPs in patients/clients/residents with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and suspected or confirmed COVID-19 (Private room with door closed or an AIIR/Negative Pressure Room).
- If the patient/client/resident has a negative screening tool and a negative swab result (completed by PCR or Abbott ID Now) for COVID-19, then the health care worker performing direct patient care will perform a Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) to determine the need for additional precautions. Medical mask (level 2 or 3) or approved equivalent standard and eye protection is to be worn at all times. AGMP can proceed in shared accommodations and procedures (ORs, endoscopy, etc.) can continue without airborne precautions.
- All AGMPs performed or encountered by Paramedicine providers require the use of an N95 mask and Droplet/Contact precautions.

Clinical programs may operationalize pre-procedure and/or admission testing where appropriate and if operationally feasible.

Carla St. Croix

Regional Director – Infection Prevention and Control

Report all potential communicable diseases to Occupational Health: 709-777-7777, line 3, line 2, or email occhealth@easternhealth.ca.

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