

Subject: Coronavirus Update #9 - Important Updates to Guidance

Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 3:53 PM

From: Wendy Bringas On Behalf Of Bo Boulenger

To: DG-BHSF Everyone; DG-BT Everyone Automated; BRRH Everyone



Ladies and Gentlemen:

The CDC has updated its guidance for testing and for the use of personal protective equipment, particularly N95 respirators. Please see these important updates below and attached.

New CDC Testing Guidance:

Attached, please find our latest WINK for your reference.

The Florida Department of Health, following CDC guidance, has revised the clinical screening tool for persons under investigation for COVID-19; the latest version is 4.1, which is attached here and can be found on our intranet. The guidance is changing quickly- so please continue to monitor the Florida Department of Health for the latest update. Please note that if a patient meets the criteria for testing, the current practice continues to be that you contact your site's infection control personnel immediately, and they contact the county health department.

Commercial laboratories are now beginning to test samples for patients who meet certain criteria, as defined in the attached guidance. We will provide more information on this to our clinical staff in the coming days.

Updated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for non-aerosol generating procedures

In an effort to preserve supply of N95 respirators, the CDC has released interim guidance ***allowing for the use of face masks*** (commonly referred to as surgical masks) when caring for patients with suspected or confirmed coronavirus disease 2019, except in high risk situations.

The updated guidance can be found [here](#), and indicates the following:

- Facemasks (surgical masks) protect the wearer from splashes and sprays.
- Available respirators should be prioritized for procedures that are likely to generate respiratory aerosols, which would pose the highest exposure risk to healthcare personnel.
- Patients should be placed on droplet precautions (advice issued after attached Florida Department of Health algorithm). Eye protection, gown, and gloves continue to be recommended.

Students:

Effective immediately, students should not be given assignments that include patients on isolation precautions, in order to conserve protective equipment. Residents should continue to provide care to all patients, as needed and within their scopes.

Thank you,

Bo Boulenger

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