

2019 Novel Coronavirus: Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures in Healthcare Settings

This document provides details about Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs) specifically with regard to patients under investigation (PUI) for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The Public Health Agency of Canada has recommended that, in addition to routine precautions, healthcare workers (HCWs) follow droplet and contact precautions when caring for patients meeting clinical and exposure criteria for 2019-nCoV, unless performing an AGMP.

Patients with signs, symptoms and exposure criteria consistent with 2019-nCoV should be cared for under droplet and contact precautions, unless an AGMP is required.

AGMPs that generate small droplet nuclei in high concentration present a risk for airborne transmission of pathogens not otherwise able to spread by the airborne route (e.g., coronavirus, influenza). When performing AGMPs for a PUI including for the purpose of specimen collection, it is recommended to observe the following:

- Place patient in an AIIR (airborne infection isolation room) if possible, or in a single room that minimizes exposure to healthcare workers and other patients;
- Limit the number of HCWs to only those required for the procedure;
- Ensure HCWs performing or assisting with AGMP wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE): gown, gloves, a fit tested N95 respirator and eye protection (i.e. face shield);
- Observe appropriate hand hygiene, donning and doffing procedures.

AGMPs Requiring Respiratory Protection for 2019-nCoV Patients Under Investigation

Autopsies involving respiratory tissues
CPR with Bag valve mask ventilation
Bronchoscopy and bronchoalveolar lavage
Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) or bilevel positive airway pressure (BiPAP)
Intubation and extubation procedures
Nasopharyngeal aspirates, washes, and scoping*
Nebulized therapy
Open airway suctioning
Sputum Induction

* Nasopharyngeal (NP) and throat swabs can be performed using contact and droplet precautions with procedural mask and eye protection, and do not require the use of an N95 respirator. See [here](#) for more details.

IMPORTANT: this list is not exhaustive and includes common types of AGMPs. For scenarios not described, please contact your local Infection Prevention and Control team and/or the Medical Health Officer.

References:

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/transmission-based-precautions.html>
https://www.picnet.ca/wp-content/uploads/Respiratory-Infection-Outbreak-Guidelines-for-Healthcare-Facilities_November-2018.pdf