COVID-19 Emergency Department and Procedural Area Cleaning & Disinfection

Updated January 7, 2021

What’s Changed: Clarified that procedure rooms do not need to be held after an AGP.

Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures (e.g. applying an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces or objects for appropriate contact times as indicated on the product’s label) are appropriate for COVID-19 in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed. Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims are recommended for use against COVID-19. Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses, meaning they are one of the easiest types of viruses to kill with the appropriate disinfectant products. The EPA published a list of disinfectants that are effective against these viruses on 3/3/2020.1 Contact Infection Prevention and Control for investigation and guidance on use of disinfectants that are in use but not on this EPA list N.

If the facility has a high volume of PUI/COVID-19 patients and there is a need to turn rooms quickly, the colleagues will wear the following PPE for the duration of their shift: gown, gloves, face shield and an N95 or elastomeric respirator or PAPR. There is no need to wait after patient has left the room to begin cleaning the room, nor should the room be held post cleaning.

Management of laundry, food service tray and utensils, and medical waste should also be performed in accordance with routine procedures.

Note: All patients must remain masked, regardless of the COVID-19 status of the patient who occupied the room or bay before them. If the incoming patient cannot tolerate a mask, they should be placed in a room or bay that has been cleaned and held the required number of air changes, unless there is no other option available. Refer to local facilities for the correct timing for air change cycles.

Procedure Areas

Procedure areas that are terminally cleaned once per day (ex. Interventional Radiology, CT/Imaging) generally have air exchange rates that allow them to be turned over to the next patient after wiping down surfaces, **a terminal clean is not necessary, even after an Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP)**. Refer to local facilities to obtain the air exchange rate for the area in question. Areas with very low air exchange rates may wish to look into portable air scrubbers to augment the exchange rate; see options listed in [Air Quality Guidelines](https://COVID-19 Resources site).

Equipment & Supplies

- Microfiber buckets with microfiber cloths saturated with EPA-approved disinfectant, or disinfectant wipes
- Red bags (these are only required for regular Regulated Medical Waste)
- Clear plastic bags, or the waste bags normally used by facility
- Alcohol-based hand rub
Isolation Precautions

- The following transmission-based precautions will be in effect for a person under investigation (PUI) or confirmed COVID-19 for the duration of their episode of care: Standard, contact and droplet precautions.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Isolation gown
- Face shield
- N95 or elastomeric respirator or PAPR
- Single-use nitrile disposable gloves

Cleaning/Disinfection

1. Perform hand hygiene
2. Don gloves
3. Bag all linens
4. Remove garbage and linen if needed. Process via normal manner.
5. Disinfect Miscellaneous Items.
   a. Gurney (cart)
   b. Tray table
   c. Light switch
   d. Chair
   e. Stool
   f. Sink handles
   g. Telephone
   h. Key board
   i. Door knob
6. Place clean sheet on gurney (cart)
7. Cleaning Supplies. All cleaning supplies will be processed in normal manner (e.g. Must disinfect outside of wipes container if moving container from room to room).
8. Remove gloves
9. Remove gown
10. Wear face shield/respirator for entire shift.
11. Perform Hand Hygiene. Perform hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub or wash with soap/water for 20 seconds.
12. Properly Discard All Contaminated PPE and Disposable Items.
13. Repeat hand hygiene

Definitions

Procedure means a document designed to implement a policy or a description of specific required actions or processes.

Regional Health Ministry ("RHM") means a first tier (direct) subsidiary, affiliate or operating division of Trinity Health that maintains a governing body that has day-to-day management oversight of a designated portion of Trinity Health System operations and includes at least one hospital.

Trinity Hospitality Services ("THS") means the system infrastructure that is aligned to support the interests of Trinity Health and all the RHM’s in the effective operation of the Environmental Services (EVS) department.

Standards or Guidelines mean additional instructions and guidance which assist in implementing Procedures, including those developed by accreditation or professional organizations.

Integrated Clinical Services ("ICS ") means the infrastructure to make it easier for our clinicians and colleagues to deliver the finest care to each patient/resident.