COVID-19 Emergency Department Patient Room Cleaning and Disinfection

April 9, 2020

PROCEDURE TITLE: Emergency Department Patient Room Cleaning: COVID-19

Changes: Addressed volume level of COVID-19/PUI patients, not applicable with low volume, no need to change from normal process. Added hand hygiene to last step.

NOTE: 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.

Coronaviruses are enveloped viruses, meaning they are one of the easiest types of viruses to kill with the appropriate disinfectant products. Coronaviruses do not linger, or float in the air, for a prolonged time unless an aerosol generating procedure is performed. Even in these instances virus is in contaminated droplets that will fall to the floor within 6 ft. of the patient. This procedure includes procedures for EVS technicians to follow that will keep them safe and protected against possible exposure. The source of the virus is the patient with the infection who is coughing and/or sneezing.

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, it may be difficult to discern whether an Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP) was performed. In this case, it is recommended that EVS staff be designated to the ED for their entire shift. The colleagues will wear the following PPE for the duration of their shift: gown, gloves, face shield and an N95 mask. There is no need to wait after patient has left the room to begin cleaning the room.

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

SCOPE/APPLICABILITY

This Procedure is intended to apply to all Environmental Services (EVS) Departments.

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
- Step ladder, if applicable
- Clean curtains, if applicable
• 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 mask
• 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. microfiber to laundry, disinfect mop handles, toilet brush caddy, microfiber bucket, etc.)
8. **Remove gloves**
9. **Remove gown**
10. **Wear face shield/mask for entire shift**
11. **Perform Hand hygiene.** Perform hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub.
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.
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.

APPROVALS
Initial Approval: March 29, 2020
Subsequent Review/Revision(s): None