A Publication for Direct Patient Care Providers

Shift-Use Masks Provided for Outpatient and Independent Living Staff

UPMC-provided shift-use masks are *mandatory* to be worn by staff in clinical and high-traffic areas of all **hospitals**; **cancer centers**; and **skilled nursing, assisted living, and personal care** long-term care facilities.

NEW This week, employees and providers in **independent living facilities** and **outpatient areas outside of hospital-based clinics, oncology, and transplant**, received yellow shift-use face masks that are *mandatory* in all clinical spaces, high-traffic public areas, and patient or resident rooms.

Get familiar with our shift-use mask guidelines that contain helpful tips on how to safely wear and reuse your shift-use mask.

Refer to our complete COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment Plan to follow aligned, system guidelines by level of care.

Updated Clinical Care Guidelines

- COVID-19 Medical Surgical Admission Guidelines

- COVID-19 Medical Surgical Disease Specific Information

- COVID-19 Medical Surgical Treatment Guidelines

- COVID-19 Medical Surgical Discharge Guidelines

- COVID-19 Transport Guidelines

New IV Extension Tubing Recommendations

Recommendations for using IV extension tubing when treating COVID-19 positive or suspected patients help limit staff exposure, reduce transmission of virus, and reduce use of personal protective equipment. Review COVID-19 Extension Tubing Recommendations to consider and to follow the procedure guidelines.

New COVID-19 Isolation Codes

Three **new isolation codes will quickly identify patients who are transferred from within UPMC or externally:**

- **COVID-19 POSITIVE – display of positive for COVID-19 infection**

- **COVID-19 Negative – display of negative for COVID-19 infection**

- **COVID-19 PUI (Person Under Investigation)** – display of patient awaiting test results for COVID-19 OR suspected of a COVID-19 infection

The banner bar in Cerner will display only one of the new codes and will replace the current "emerging pathogen" alert. The current alert "Pos COVID-19 Screen," that displays for a positive screen based on the COVID-19 travel screening form, will be removed if any of the three new isolation codes exist for that patient.

The new codes will appear across all electronic platforms and venues of care, making it faster and easier to identify COVID-19 patients. COVID-19 isolation codes updated in both Cerner and EPIC will update the other system in real-time. This will help protect health care

workers when COVID-19 POSITIVE/PUI patients discharged from an ED or hospital present to their primary care physician as well as when those identified in the ambulatory setting present to an ED.

Clinical reports and views in Cerner and EPIC will be updated to display the new isolation alerts of COVID-19 POSITIVE, COVID-19 Negative, and COVID-19 PUI.

Review this background information for more details:

- COVID-19 eRecord Isolation Changes

- COVID-19 TeleTracking Tips

- COVID-19 EpicCare Clinical Information

How to Discontinue Isolation Precautions for COVID-19 Positive Patients

Discontinuation of COVID-19 isolation precautions cannot happen without approval by Infection Prevention in conjunction with local command center and care providers.

Two strategies may be considered for determining a patient with COVID-19 is no longer infectious, test-based and non-test-based. Which strategy to use depends on patient-specific circumstances including transmission risk, patient comorbidities, disposition and location of care, and potentially other factors.

Patients who are determined to no longer be infectious based on either strategy implemented should be cared for in a manner appropriate for a COVID-19 negative patient. Read the full guidelines on Infonet.

Watch for COVID-19 Fraud Schemes

With the rise of COVID-19, many fraudulent schemes seek to victimize organizations, patients, and consumers. The UPMC Fraud Team would like to pass along these fraud scenarios and related preventive measures to review to avoid becoming a victim. For questions or to report suspected fraudulent activity or theft, email fraudteam@upmc.edu.

Guidelines for Food From Outside Sources

The outpouring of support from the community has been incredible, with many are choosing to #HelpTheHelpers by donating food products. To ensure the safety of all, please check and follow these guidelines before accepting food donations, or bringing communal food to share.