

PSJMC PROTOCOL FOR COVID-19

Admits Through Emergency Department:

- **Triage:**
 - Screen all patients for risk following the Epidemic Risk Screening in Epic
 - If patient meets Person Under Investigation (PUI) criteria:
 - Immediately place mask on patient
 - Escort patient to the **Room 10 in Emergency Department**
 - **DO NOT ALLOW PATIENT TO WAIT IN ANY PUBLIC AREA**
 - Contact Infection Prevention Department at 818-8473636 during office hours and Nursing Supervisor at 818-847-4707 for after hours
 - Refer to [Provider Checklist](#) document and follow the steps **for Isolation, communication, required lab tests and specimen transport**
 - If the patient is with family members or friends they should be escorted to a private room until screened and released by Public Health or until the patient is deemed not to be Person Under Investigation (PUI)
 - Patient might stay in ED until results are back from CDC. This might take 24 hours or more
- **Personal protective equipment (PPE):** All persons entering the room should wear at a minimum:
 - Gloves
 - Gown
 - Face shield or eye protection
 - N-95 respirator mask or PAPR
 - Additional PPE may be required based on the assessment of the patient's condition and needs (e.g. copious amounts of blood, other body fluids, vomit, or feces present in the environment or if performing aerosol-generating procedures)
 - Avoid aerosol-generating procedures when possible
 - Follow posted PPE donning and doffing steps
- **Hand Hygiene** must be performed before room entry and immediately after removal of PPE
 - Follow posted guidelines for performing hand hygiene when caring for a patient with COVID-19 Virus Disease
- **Patient care equipment**
 - Disposable equipment should be used whenever possible
 - Dedicated medical equipment (e.g. stethoscopes) should be used for provision of patient care
 - All non-disposable equipment should be cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturer's instructions and hospital policies before removal from the room
- **Patient Care Considerations**
 - A patient requiring admission to the hospital will be transported to Room 2201 and 2202 in 2North ICU
 - Proper precautions will be maintained during transport
 - The patient should not be sent to ancillary departments (e.g., Radiology) for procedures or treatments
 - To limit the staff exposure, nursing will clean the high touch areas. Discussion with the care team should take place in situations that EVS staff need to enter the room

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- **Waste management**
 - Waste generated in the care of PUIs or patients with confirmed COVID-19 does not present additional considerations for wastewater disinfection in the United States. Coronaviruses are susceptible to the same disinfection conditions in community and healthcare settings as other viruses, so current disinfection conditions in wastewater treatment are expected to be sufficient. This includes conditions for practices such as oxidation with hypochlorite
 - Disposal textiles and cleaning supplies (e.g., rags, mop heads) will be used
- **Caregivers**
 - A log of all persons entering and exiting the patient's room will be maintained, including health care workers
 - **Any caregivers sustaining a blood or body fluid exposure should notify Caregiver Health immediately**
 - Caregivers entering the patient's room should be limited to essential care providers only
 - At the start of each shift caregivers should take their temps and document their names and temps on a flow sheet
 - Caregivers caring for the patient will not be removed from the schedule and will not be quarantined unless they develop symptoms
 - Laboratory personal should not enter the room but can handle the lab specimen following highest infection prevention precautions and PPE
 - Case management or Social Work might be required to be included on the care team. The guidance needs to be asked from LA County Department of Public Health
- **Visitors**
 - **No visitors** will be allowed into the patient's room unless approved by Infection Prevention
- **Scheduling Department**
 - When scheduling appointments, screen patient using Epic Epidemic Screen questions. Instruct patients and persons who accompany them to call ahead or inform HCP upon arrival if they have symptoms of respiratory infection (e.g., cough, runny nose, fever) and to take appropriate preventive actions (e.g., wear a facemask upon entry to contain cough, follow triage procedures)
- **Ambulatory Care Settings**
 - Screen all patient using Epic Epidemic Screen questions. If they meet the PUI criteria, put regular surgical mask on the patient and call ED to notify them that a PUI case is being escorted to ED. Also call Infection Prevention Department at 818-847-3636.
- **Home Health**
 - Follow [Home Care Instruction for COVID-19](#)
- **Resources:**
 - [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease or Persons Under Investigation for COVID-19 in Healthcare settings](#)
 - [Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\)](#)
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html>