Health Care Facilities & COVID-19 Safety: What You Need to Know

17 March 2020
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Patient Placement – CDC Recommendations

For patients with COVID-19 or other respiratory infections, evaluate need for hospitalization. If hospitalization is not medically necessary home care is preferred.

If hospitalization is necessary and ample Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms are available:

- CDC doesn’t require placement in AIIRs, but consider using if resources allow
- Limit transport and movement of the patient outside of the room to medically essential purposes
- Patients should be housed in the same room for the duration of their stay
- Whenever possible, perform procedures/tests in the patient’s room

Patient Placement – CDC Recommendations

If hospitalization is necessary and Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms are limited, placement in a single-person room with the door closed

- Room should have a dedicated bathroom
- Limit patient transport and patient transfers

AIIR’s should be reserved for patients who will be undergoing aerosol-generating procedures

Small Scale Surge

HEPA to Corridor

- Single patient room with dedicated bathroom
- Create “sealed” vestibule to patient room
  - Need minimum 5’-0” egress clearance in the corridor
- Seal off return air grill in patient room
- Place HEPA filtered negative air machine in vestibule
- Duct through vestibule to corridor
- Keep door to vestibule closed but door to patient room open
  - Verify that patient room door is not a rated fire door!
- Verify negative pressure prior to placing room in service and monitor negative pressure while in service
- Limit patient transport and patient transfers
- Terminal cleaning after ACH remove potentially infections particles
Small Scale Surge

HEPA to Outside
- Single patient room with dedicated bathroom
- Seal off return air grill in patient room
- Place HEPA filtered negative air machine in patient room
- Duct through exterior to outside
  - Remove window and enclose opening
- Keep door to patient room closed
- Verify negative pressure prior to placing room in service and monitor negative pressure while in service
- Limit patient transport and patient transfers
- Terminal cleaning after ACH remove potentially infectious particles
Small Scale Surge

HEPA to Return

• Single patient room with dedicated bathroom
• Place HEPA filtered negative air machine in patient room
• Duct to return air grill
  • Seal off remaining part of return air grill
  • Verify impact that this will have to the overall air handling system (neg pressure in other patient rooms)
• Choosing rooms closest to the air handler may reduce impact
• Keep door to patient room closed
• Verify negative pressure prior to placing room in service and monitor negative pressure while in service
• Limit patient transport and patient transfers
• Terminal cleaning after ACH remove potentially infections particles
Small Scale Surge

Multi-bed Zone-Within-Zone Room
- Patient room with dedicated bathroom
- Separate beds with ballasted plastic curtains
- Negative Air machine set equidistant between patient beds
- Seal off return air grill in patient room
- Keep door to patient room closed
- Verify negative pressure prior to placing room in service and monitor negative pressure while in service
- Limit patient transport and patient transfers
- Terminal cleaning after ACH remove potentially infections particles

CDC/NIOSH, Expedient methods for surge airborne isolation within healthcare settings during response to a natural or manmade epidemic, accessed 16 March 2020 at: https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/37781