

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# COVID-19: Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs)

05/13/2020

## Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures

### Q1. Is surgery considered an AGMP?

The term “surgery” is broad. Several surgical procedures do not generate aerosols. Other procedures in which high speed devices may be used (e.g. bone saw) can generate aerosols, however these are not the type of AGMP that are associated with transmission of this novel coronavirus. The type of AGMPs of concern in an operating room are those associated with the respiratory tract such as intubation of the patient and during bronchoscopy. For patients with COVID-19, a risk assessment at point of care should be conducted to determine the need for the AGMP and the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in order to perform the procedure safely.

## Endoscopic Procedures

### Q2. What type of PPE is required for endoscopic procedures?

Endoscopic procedures generate droplets and the recommended PPE are mask, eye protection, gown and gloves.

## Unresponsive Emergency Department Patients

### Q3. If a patient arrives at the emergency department of a hospital and is unable to respond to questions about COVID-19 risk factors, should we assume they are positive?

Based on the current prevalence in the community a facility may assume the patient has the infection until the patient can be assessed. Hospitals may consider implementing Droplet and Contact Precautions; if performing an AGMP that cannot be postponed or delayed, implement Airborne Precautions.

## CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation)

### Q4. What about CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation). Is that an AGMP?

Performing the all-important chest compression is not an AGMP. The next steps which involve intubation and manual ventilation are considered to be AGMPs. This means that chest compressions may begin right away. The person performing manual ventilation and intubation should put on their N95 respirator and

wear eye protection. Consider having a respirator (the type most commonly worn) and eye protection as part of the intubation tray set up.

## Appropriate Use of KN95s

### **Q5. What is the appropriate use of KN95s?**

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides a list and commentary of equivalent standards and product classifications of commercial (non-surgical) N95 respirators.<sup>1</sup>

The KN95 is a respirator and some models have similar properties as N95 respirators as indicated in the CDC document. However, not all KN95 models have been found to filter particles to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) standard for filter efficiency.

If a KN95 respirator model meets filtration criteria, wearers still have to be fit tested if it is to be used for AGMPs.

If this is not feasible or they fail the fit test, then the KN95 can be used as a mask for either universal masking (source control) or as a mask for Droplet and Contact Precautions.

For more information, see Health Canada's [Medical Devices for use Against Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): List of Products Authorized under Interim Order](#).

## References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Strategies for optimizing the supply of N95 respirators: crisis/alternate strategies [Internet]. Atlanta, GA: CDC; 2020 [cited 2020 May 6]. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/crisis-alternate-strategies.html>

## Citation

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). COVID-19: Frequently asked questions: aerosol generating medical procedures. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020.

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