PPE Requirements, Symptom Screening, and Testing in Ambulatory Settings
June 5, 2020

PPE Requirements for Office Visits, Procedures, and Surgeries (see Table 1 below)

All visits:

- All HCP and all symptomatic patients must wear surgical masks
- Asymptomatic patients may wear their own face covering or a surgical mask

Patients with confirmed COVID-19 or with signs/symptoms of COVID-19:

- Patient is given surgical mask to wear
- HCP providing care to patient follow contact and droplet precautions (gown, gloves, eye protection, and surgical mask or N95 respirator)
- Surgical mask or N95 is acceptable for office visits and non-aerosol-generating procedures
- N95 respirators are required for aerosol-generating procedures. [Refer to COVID-19 Testing Guidelines for Surgical and Other Procedural Patients at NYP for more details on PPE requirements for procedures.]

Patient Screening Protocols for Office Visits, Procedures, and Surgeries

Pre-screening: All patients will be screened for symptoms and signs of COVID-19 at the time of appointment scheduling (current practice) AND on the day prior to the scheduled appointment. Patients who report signs or symptoms of COVID-19 should be referred to a clinician to determine appropriate plan of action (e.g. defer appointment/procedure, schedule telehealth visit, referral to ED, etc.).

Arrival screening: All patients are screened for symptoms and signs of COVID-19 upon arrival. All patients will undergo a temperature check. Patients who report signs or symptoms will be masked (if not already done), asked to perform hand hygiene, and moved to a single room with the door closed. HCP providing care to the patient will use PPE as outlined above.

- Note: Due to differences in physical location (e.g. hospitals, dedicated medical buildings, mixed-use commercial buildings), the location of arrival screening (e.g. building entry vs practice/office/procedure area entrance) may vary among sites. Optimal location for arrival screening should be determined by the local operations team in consultation with Infection Prevention & Control.

Testing for COVID-19

Symptomatic patients: Patients with symptoms or signs of COVID-19 should be tested for SARS-CoV-2 as outlined in the Ambulatory COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Testing Guidelines for Patients and Symptomatic Healthcare Personnel.

Asymptomatic patients presenting at office visits (non-procedure-based visit): Testing for SARS-CoV-2 by nasopharyngeal swab is not routinely recommended for asymptomatic patients presenting for office visits.

Asymptomatic patients undergoing invasive, potentially aerosol-generating procedures: Testing for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA using a nasopharyngeal swab sample is
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Testing should be done within 3 days of the procedure, as close to the time of the procedure as possible.

Table 1: PPE Requirements for Ambulatory Settings Based on Patient Symptoms and Need for Aerosol-Generating Procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Symptoms and Need for Aerosol-Generating Procedures</th>
<th>Patient and Visitor PPE</th>
<th>PPE for HCP in exam room</th>
<th>Staff PPE while obtaining NP swab for SARS-CoV-2 PCR³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symptoms on pre-screen?</td>
<td>Symptoms on arrival screen?</td>
<td>Aerosol-generating procedure (AGP)²?</td>
<td>Surgical mask or their own face covering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Surgical mask (N95 during and after AGP) + Eye protection + Gown + Gloves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Surgical mask or their own face covering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes⁵</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Surgical mask</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Surgical mask</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes⁵</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Surgical mask</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes⁴</td>
<td>Surgical mask</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ If patient is not wearing a mask. ² Must be N95 or higher. ³ NP swab should be obtained according to CDC guidelines. ⁴ If patient is not wearing a mask. ⁵ If patient is on prophylactic treatment with nontoxicotically active antivirals.
*For scheduled AGP, pre-procedure testing with SARS-CoV-2 PCR is recommended for all patients regardless of symptoms of COVID-19. If PCR was performed and result is negative then additional PPE (N95, gown) may not be required. See Interim Ambulatory COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Testing Guidelines for Patients and Symptomatic Healthcare Personnel (HCP) May 15, 2020 for more details.

1 Patients may not be wearing a mask if not recommended (e.g., <2 years old), unable to keep on a mask reliably (e.g., dementia, autism, behavioral or psychiatric issues, young age), or cannot wear a mask due to respiratory distress.

2 Eye protection should also be worn if the patient needs to remove mask during the visit (e.g., oropharyngeal exam).

3 Testing for SARS-CoV-2 by PCR is indicated for symptomatic patients and may be considered for asymptomatic patients who have had close contact with an individual with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Testing is not routinely recommended for asymptomatic patients.

4 Avoid aerosol-generating procedures whenever possible (e.g., use metered-dose inhaler rather than nebulizer whenever feasible)

5 Refer to clinician. Consider telehealth visit.