



ADMINISTRATION

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November 22, 2021

Via email: foia@sirillp.com

Ms. Gabrielle G. Palmer
Siri Glimstad
200 Park Avenue, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10166

Re: Plastic Draping Policy (IR#0640)

Dr. Ms. Palmer:

We are in receipt of your request for records pursuant to the Public Information Act, for **Documents sufficient to show the Medical Center Health System and/or Medical Center Hospital's policy to use plastic drapes or coverings to cover the heads and upper torsos of COVID-19 patients.** Please find enclosed the following:

1. Intra-facility Transport of PUI/COVID Patient Transport Guideline
2. Transportation of COVID-19 Patients Within Hospital
3. Weekly Update dated October 21, 2021

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information or documentation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Steen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Steen
Chief Legal Counsel

Intra-facility Transport of PUI/COVID Patient Transport Guideline

Purpose: To reduce unintentional facility exposure related to the large amount of viral shedding that occurs with each breath related to COVID-19 patients during transport.

Process: All PUIs and COVID positive patients must wear an isolation drape for all transports outside of their room. Patients that meet criteria for the isolation drape must be alert and oriented. The patient can refuse the isolation drape but must wear a surgical mask at minimum. Transportation staff must wear Airborne PPE plus protective eyewear for transportation. Patients must never be left unattended while in the isolation drape. Transportation staff must consist of one licensed staff member at minimum. Patients not alert and/or oriented that require transport must wear a surgical mask during transport.

Scripting: In order to protect patients and staff from acquiring coronavirus we require that you wear a transportation drape for transport to and from your room. This process ensures the safety of other patients and staff members.

- Non intubated patient
 - Must be alert & oriented
 - Patient must be on Nasal Cannula at minimum
 - Place surgical mask on patient
 - Place isolation drape over patient's head to mid torso
 - Ensure drape is loose fitting to mid torso
- Intubated patient
 - Lay isolation drape over patient's head to mid torso
 - Ensure circuit is under isolation drape



POLICY MEMORANDUM

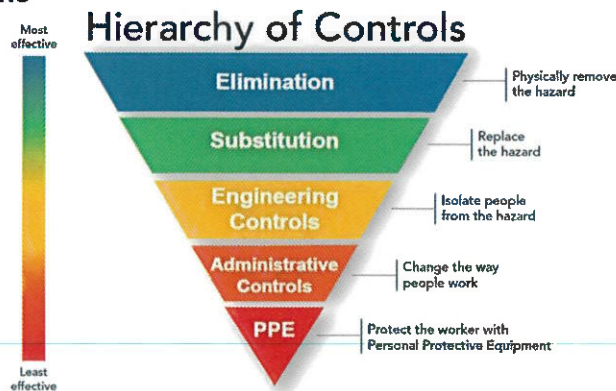
POLICY TITLE:	Transportation of COVID-19 Patients Within Hospital
FUNCTION AREA:	
POLICY APPLICABLE TO:	MCH
POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE:	10/2021
POLICY REVIEWED:	
POLICY REVISED:	

ALTERNATE WORD SEARCH: COVID-19, transport, COVID PUI

POLICY STATEMENT: Transportation of patients under investigation (PUI) and COVID positive patient represents a potential risk of exposure to healthcare workers (HCW), other patients, visitors, and other staff. Safe and expedient transport will minimize the risk of transmission. This policy is to protect patients, visitors and staff from unintentional facility exposure to COVID-19 by providing guidelines for safe transportation of PUI and COVID-19 patients while minimizing the risk of transmission to HCWs, other patients and visitors and staff.

PROCEDURE:

General considerations



Engineering Controls

- **Source control is of paramount importance** – mask patient, HEPA filter on ventilator.
- Identify optimal route and elevators prior to transporting to be efficient and minimize potential exposures.
- Do not admit additional people to the elevator when transporting such patients. Kindly ask them to wait for the next elevator.

Administrative controls:

- Determine if transportation off unit is necessary: Limit transport if at all possible
- For critical studies, consider portable exams or procedures in lieu of transport.

- Directly prior to exiting the patient room, clean the stretcher/bed rails or wheelchair handles, IV poles, etc. Cover the patient with a clean sheet/blanket as appropriate.

Personnel

Staffing will depend on the type of transport and clinical need of the patient. The following health care workers (HCWs) may need to be involved:

- Nurses
- Physicians
- Advanced Practice Providers
- Respiratory Therapists
- Transport Personnel/Transporters to interact with environment/clear path for transport
- Perioperative Services Tech

At least two personnel will perform the transport of the patient

*exception for discharge or stable patient being transported laterally without need for elevator use

All Patients should wear a flat surgical mask to over cover the mouth and nose when being transported throughout the facility.

Transport to/from the OR

- PUI and confirmed COVID-19 patients who have been approved for surgery should go directly to the OR and not to any preoperative area.
- Post-procedure, patients should either go to CCU (if CCU level of care is indicated) or recovered in a negative pressure room.

Procedure for Transporting high-risk (COVID suspect or COVID+) patients in hospital:

- If patient is ambulatory and does not require assistance with transfer, patient may exit room into waiting wheelchair. Transport staff does not need to be wearing full PPE in this scenario: Mask is sufficient. Adhere to hand hygiene practices. **Patient should be wearing a surgical mask (not N95) that covers nose and mouth and should be covered with a clean sheet below the neck.**
- If patient requires assistance with transport:
 1. Staff puts on full PPE prior to entering room to prepare patient for transport
 2. Preparation of patient and equipment for transport should occur immediately prior to transport. Ensure adequate oxygen supply for transport

All patients:

1. **Patient should wear a procedure or surgical mask**, and have a clean sheet covering from neck down during transport.
2. Transporting staff should wear an N95 or greater during transport.
3. Ensure adequate oxygen supply for transport
4. Always ensure the safety of the patient. The patient is not to be left unattended.
5. The patient will be asked to place a mask over their nose and mouth for transport. A buddy will accompany the caregiver transporting to ensure a clear a path and elevator for the patient.

Patients needing transport after intubation:

1. If at all possible, recently intubated patients should be transported **AFTER** aerosol settles / expelled from room via air exchanges
 - MCHS standard room (6 air exchanges /hr): 69 minutes
 - OR, Cath Lab, Endoscopy rooms (20 air exchanges /hr): 21 minutes
2. Place clean sheet on patient (from neck down) prior to transport
3. RT to place patient on appropriate ventilator for transport prior to leaving the room.
4. HEPA filters should be used on all vented patients. If vent must be disconnected, where possible disconnect beyond the circuit HEPA filter.
 - Staff keeps PPE on and touches only the patient/ bed / gurney / equipment
 - Assistant wearing mask opens all doors and watches to ensure that no surfaces are touched by the staff members with PPE still donned.
3. Quickly transport to intended area. Clear the halls and elevators of other staff and visitors when possible.
4. If patient requires assistance to get into CT, MRI, etc, staff assisting should be wearing full PPE (follow donning and doffing guidelines)
5. Same process to return patient to their room

AUTHOR'S SIGNATURE	Infection Prevention Officer
This will be authorized electronically	
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE(S)	Chief Nursing Officer
This will be authorized electronically	Infection Prevention Medical Director
	CEO
END OF POLICY	



Weekly Update October 21, 2021

Good afternoon, everyone!

Transporting of COVID Patients Update

In response to concerns noted in a recent site visit, Medical Center Hospital is implementing new guidelines for the transfer of COVID patients to support CDC recommendations. The new policy and guidelines have been reviewed under CDC guidelines and several researched facilities. Your directors should have already started reaching out to you to review the updated guidelines, but please review the actual policy that has been attached to this update.

CLINICAL – Please make sure your patient has on the appropriate mask and PPE for transport, based on the updated criteria. Please also make sure you have on the appropriate PPE for safely transporting the patient.

NON-CLINICAL – Even if you don't transport patients, please be aware of your surroundings. If a nurse or staff members alerts you to a COVID patient being transported, please clear the hallway or area as they bring them through.

We appreciate your support for this fluid situation and the commitment to safety of our patients, visitors and other staff members. While this will be an adjustment that may feel less safe for some, it is recommended and supported in other facilities and by the CDC. We will continue to monitor staff exposures and report rates and trends to the designated committees. As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to your director and/or HIMT.

COVID Booster Shot (3rd Shot for Moderna) Update

The FDA has now approved the booster (3rd shots) for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which is what most of our staff received when it came out last December. We will begin offering those to staff the week of November 1.

We will be sending out a full schedule and sign-up sheets for people to volunteer to help within the next week. Please be on the lookout in your email and the next update.

Flu Vaccines for Employees

We are still offering free flu shots for employees over the next couple of weeks. If you missed any of the first clinics, there's no need to worry. Below are the future dates to get your flu shot for free!

Wednesday, October 27 (Parking Garage)
6 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Thursday, October 28 (MCH Cafeteria)
12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

COVID-19 Vaccine Locations/Employee COVID Vaccines

We continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated against COVID-19. As a reminder, we are still offering first, second & third doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at Employee Health and Wellness AND two of our Urgent Care locations.

3001 JBS Parkway
6030 W. University

These vaccines are FREE of charge and NO appointments are necessary. Each of the Urgent Care locations has a room set aside for employee visits, whether it be for the vaccine or other health needs. Just bring your badge with you to show the staff so you can be taken to the employee designated room

If you choose to receive your vaccines through Health & Wellness, you MUST call (432) 640-1154 to schedule your appointment beforehand.

If you have received your COVID-19 vaccine somewhere else, please bring proof (medical record or vaccine card) to Health & Wellness so they can document this in your file.

COVID-19 Testing for Employees on Campus

If you are needing to be tested for COVID-19, we are now doing on-site testing Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Please report your symptoms to you director and then have them call Health & Wellness to schedule your test time.

While you are waiting on your results, please DO NOT go back to your department or any other building on campus. You must wait in your vehicle or at home until you are notified of your result.

Social Media Pages

If you haven't already, please like all of our social media pages (***including our new TikTok page***) where we present good news, accomplishments and education to the community.

Facebook – www.facebook.com/medicalcenter

Instagram – mchodessa

Twitter – @MCHOdessa

TikTok – mchodessa (BRAND NEW)

COVID-19 Email for Questions

If you have any questions regarding COVID-19, please reach out to the COVID-19 Taskforce/Hospital Incident Management team email.

- covid19questions@echd.org

Upcoming/Current Events

- Respiratory Care Week
October 24 – October 30,
2021
- Take Time for Your Health (Health and Wellness Event)
Saturday, October 30
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Center for Health & Wellness (North Patio)
- National Physical Therapy
Month October 2021

*If you have an announcement/event you'd like to get in the weekly update from your department, please email Trevor Tankersley at ttankersley@echd.org.

****As always, below are the total COVID in-house census as of 9:00 a.m. on October 21.***

- ***49 COVID patients in-house, 0 PUIs in-house***
 - ***23 Critical Care Patients (3 vaccinated, 17 unvaccinated, 3 unknown)***
 - ***15 in CCU***
 - ***1 in ICU***
 - ***7 in WS PACU***
 - ***26 Med-Surg Patients (2 vaccinated, 17 unvaccinated, 7 unknown)***
 - ***23 on 4 Central***
 - ***1 on 8 Central***
 - ***1 on Pediatrics***
 - ***1 on 5 Central***
 - ***16 COVID patients on ventilator (2 vaccinated, 11 unvaccinated, 3 unknown)***
- ***COVID patient list (from nursing homes and outside Ector County) includes: 2 from Andrews, 2 from Big Spring, 1 from Camp Wood, 1 from Childress, 3 from Ft. Stockton, 2 from Kermit, 2 from Midland, 1 from Monahans, 1 from Kansas, 2 from Pecos, 1 from Toyah, 1 from Oklahoma***
- ***COVID patient age range: 2 months – 93 years old***
- ***Unvaccinated: 34, Vaccinated: 5, Unknown: 10***

****You can also find the numbers updated daily at mchodessa.com/coronavirus (Monday – Friday).***
