

COVID-19 Applying the Hierarchy of Controls to a Point of Care Risk Assessment for the protection of Health Care Workers

POSTER

The purpose of this poster is to engage in a dialogue of what should be considered to ensure that front line care providers are adequately protected. Parties that should be part of this discussion include, but not limited to, hospital administration, union representatives, JHSC members, occupational health and safety, and facilities maintenance.

POINT OF CARE RISK ASSESSMENT (PCRA) FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Assess the **PATIENT**, **ACTIVITIES**, **ENVIRONMENT** & **POTENTIAL RISKS OF EXPOSURE (infectious dose)**

Performing a PCRA is always the first step and is to be used with all patients, for all care & for all interactions!

Three factors to consider in a PCRA (with associated questions for each factor):



PATIENT FACTORS

- What are the patient's symptoms?
- What is the patient's level of understanding & cooperation?
- Is the patient able to wear a surgical mask?



ACTIVITY FACTORS

- What is the degree of contact, contamination &/or aerosol exposure?
- What is the degree of difficulty of the procedure being performed?
- What actions are needed to eliminate or limit the infectious dose?



ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

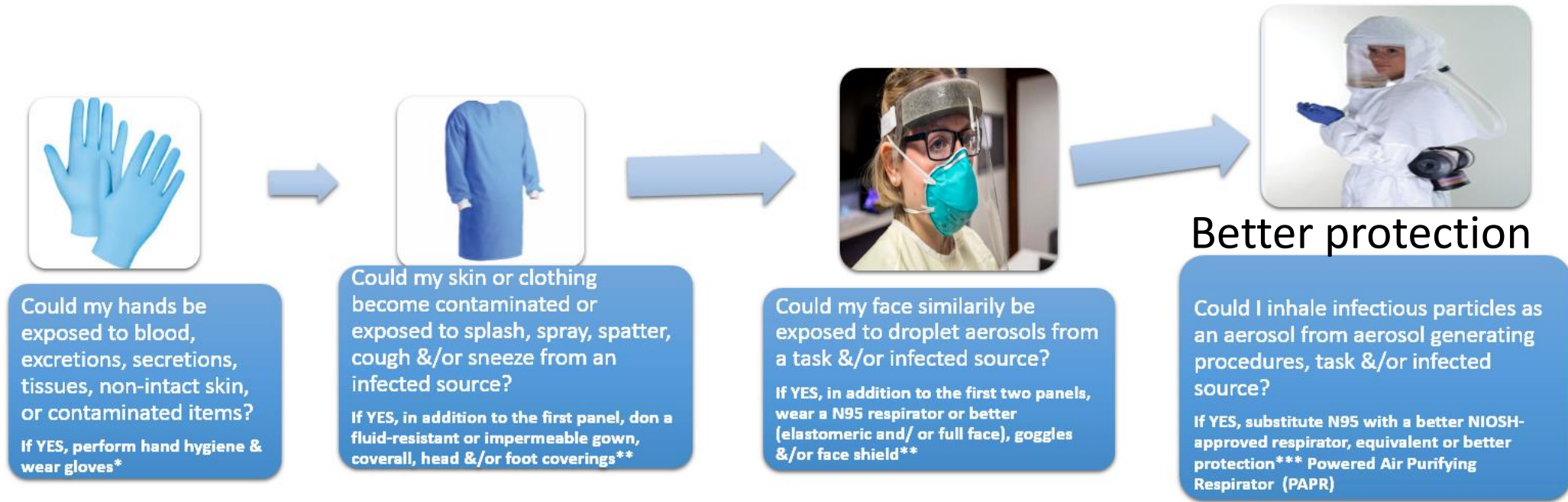
- How do we limit (minimise) staff / patient occupancy / interaction?
- What are the modes of transmission & potential risks of exposure to blood & other body fluids?
- Is the ventilation adequate?

* Refer to your organization's specific donning & doffing checklists & IP&C protocols to ensure the correct steps for putting on & removing PPE. Always complete hand hygiene before or after removing PPE.

** The ASTM & AAMI level recommended varies based on the degree of fluid barrier protection required. Goggles provide a better seal for airborne exposure, but don't cover your face to the same degree unless used in combination with a mask/respirator & head covering.

***Powered air purifying respirators (PAPR's) are recommended for AGP/AGMP, if available. They are pros & cons to all PPE & are never completely protective. Always use a combination of control measures from the hierarchy of controls to reduce the risk of exposure.

The appropriate type of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is based on the results of the risk assessment



Do I have the proper equipment, supplies & training to do assigned tasks safely (including proper donning and doffing of PPE as well as appropriate hand hygiene)? • Is the setting & ventilation adequate? • Do I need additional control measures (such as ventilated bed heads)?

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Point of Care Risk Factors	Risk description for COVID-19	Decision
Patient	Is the patient unable to follow instructions? (e.g., infants/young children, patients not capable of self-care/hand hygiene, cognitively impaired, have poor-compliance with respiratory hygiene)	Strongly consider the need to replace surgical/procedure mask with at least N95 respirator masks or higher forms of respirators, PPE as may be required.
	Is patient displaying or verbalizing symptoms of increasing risk? (e.g., excretions/ secretions cannot be contained - respiratory secretions, frequent cough/sneeze)	
Activity	Will you be performing an activity that may induce significant respiratory secretions that cannot be contained? (e.g., cough inducing procedure)	MUST replace surgical/procedure mask with at least N95 respirator or higher forms of respirators, PPE as may be required.
	Will AGMPs be performed, frequent or probable? Is the patient's condition changing? (e.g., manual or high frequency oscillatory or non-invasive ventilation, open endotracheal or airway suctioning, CPR, bronchoscopy, sputum induction, tracheostomy care, nebulized therapy/aerosolized medication administration, high flow heated oxygen therapy devices, and autopsy)	
Environment	Will care be provided outside the regular patient's room where the patient is not able to wear a surgical/procedure mask? (e.g., hallway, public areas, outpatient unit, non-traditional/leased environment)	Consider the need to replace surgical/procedure mask with at least N95 respirator mask or higher forms of respirators, PPE as may be required.

