

# FAQs for Sitters Attending Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Patients

## **What type of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) does a sitter need to wear when working with a suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patient?**

COVID-19 suspect or positive patients require the following isolation precautions: **droplet, contact** and **eye protection**. This isolation requires the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) consisting of Gowns, Gloves, Surgical Masks, and Eye Protection (goggles or face shield)

- ✓ Proper donning and doffing of PPE will be an important skill for sitters.
- ✓ Proper disposal or reuse of PPE per current SOP for nursing staff
- ✓ Consistent and proper hand hygiene is an expectation.

## **Can a sitter physically sit outside the isolation room or in the doorway of a suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patient?**

When reviewing the types of patient interactions which a sitter would be responsible for during his/her shift (see policy VUMC CL20-06.19 in Clinical Operations) this list includes activities that require direct contact with the patient's environment. It also includes movement within a space closer than 6 feet to complete these tasks. (e.g., changing bed linen of unoccupied bed, provides water/nutrition, direct observation when toileting, bathing or showering.) These activities will require the sitter to wear full PPE and sit inside the isolation room.

## **Can a sitter be in the room when a COVID-19 patient is having an Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP)?**

Sitters may accompany a patient to and from a test(s)/procedure(s). Please follow the published Guidelines for Transporting COVID-19 patients on Droplet, Contact and Eye Protection. Non-essential staff will not be in the room for AGPs; sitters will be considered non-essential since the provider will be directly managing these activities.

## **In VUH, should I consider a Virtual Sitter for COVID-19 patient?**

If a COVID-19 patient meets the criteria for a virtual sitter this would be preferred.

## **Should we follow our process of removing trashcans, sharps boxes, belongings outside of the room or left in the room with a sitter?**

Trash cans should be stored outside of the room, ensuring you have enough room to properly doff PPE. Belongings should be "dropped" inside a plastic bag with someone holding the bag. The bag needs to be clearly marked and can be kept in your usual location outside of the room.