

# COVID-19 Guidance: Emergency & Inpatient Areas

VUMC has revised PPE Guidelines based on the TN Dept of Health Guidance:

**All Patients with Respiratory Symptoms** (acute cough, cold symptoms, with/without a fever):

- Place patient on Droplet Precautions, Contact Precautions, & Eye Protection; utilize door signs
- Patient will wear a surgical mask if traveling outside the room (for tests, etc.).
- Perform hand hygiene using either soap/water or alcohol based hand rub.
- Coordinate care and reduce staff and trips into the room if possible



**If Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGP) for known/suspected Influenza or COVID-19 are anticipated:** (bronchoscopy, intubation, extubation, open suctioning, induced sputum, bipap)

- If available, place the patient in a negative pressure room.
- Wear an N95 respirator/PAPR, Gown, Gloves, and Full Face Shield.
- N95 masks should be discarded after an Aerosol Generating Procedures.
- Refer to SOP: Isolation Precautions for Aerosol Generating Procedures.



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can I remove my patient from Droplet, Contact, and Eye Protection Precautions if tests come back negative?

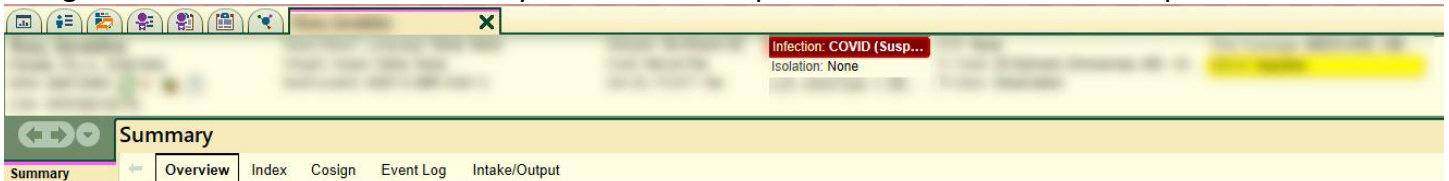
If the patient is negative for both COVID-19 and Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP), a provider can remove the patient from precautions.

### How should we clean rooms?

Follow your normal process for cleaning isolation rooms. COVID-19 can be killed by using disinfectant (purple top) or bleach wipes.

### How will I know if my patient is a Person Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19?

A flag is available in eStar and will alert you to “COVID Suspected” or “COVID Confirmed” patient.



### If I have additional questions regarding PPE criteria who should I call?

Call Infection Prevention 615-835-1205 for specific PPE criteria. If you have questions about coronavirus visit [www.vumc.org/coronavirus](http://www.vumc.org/coronavirus)

### When should N95 masks be used?

The recommendation for COVID-19 is that N95 masks should only be used with Aerosol Generating Procedures which includes bronchoscopy, intubating, extubating, open suctioning, bipap, etc. During these types of procedures, PPE that should be onetime use include Gloves, Gown, and N95 masks. Full face shields can be reused (see cleaning guidelines).



#### What Eye Protection can be reused?

A full face shield and goggles can be reused by wiping down with disinfecting wipes and allowing to dry. It can be stored in a plastic bag and labeled with a marker.



The mask with splashguard apparatus cannot be reused and should be discarded each time.