



**To: CAHAN San Diego Participants**

**Date: March 14, 2020**

**From: Epidemiology and Immunizations Services Branch, Public Health Services**

**Health Advisory Update #5: Infection Control and Prevention Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

This health advisory updates CAHAN participants about updated infection control and prevention guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and County of San Diego Public Health Services. For current testing guidance, please see the [March 10<sup>th</sup> CAHAN](#) and please refrain from referring patients to Public Health for the sole purpose of specimen collection.

**Key Points**

- Providers should use standard, contact, and droplet precautions.
- Facemasks are an acceptable alternative when respirators (i.e., N95) are not available and respirators should be conserved for procedures with high risk of aerosol-generation (i.e., sputum induction or bronchoscopy) when in short supply.
- Eye protection, gown, and gloves continue to be recommended. If there are shortages of gowns, they should be prioritized for procedures with high risk of aerosol-generation.
- Patients with suspected or known COVID-19 can be cared for in a single-person room. Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms (AIIRs) should be reserved for patients undergoing for procedures with high risk of aerosol-generation.

**Updated Infection Control and Prevention Guidelines**

The County of San Diego Public Health Services recommends that health care workers use standard, contact, and droplet precautions when caring for suspected or known cases of COVID-19.

For **low risk procedures** or procedures with low risk of aerosol-generation such as collecting Oro- and Nasopharyngeal specimens, gloves, eye protection, gowns, and either a surgical mask or N95 respirator. A gown and respirator, if in short supply, can instead be prioritized for higher risk procedures that generate respiratory aerosols and a facemask can be an acceptable alternative. Low risk aerosol generating procedures can be done in a single-person room with a closed door.

For **high risk procedures** or procedures with high risk of aerosol-generation such as sputum induction or bronchoscopy, utilize respirators, gowns, gloves, N95 respirator and eye protection in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIRs).

Of note, [CDC has released updated infection control and prevention guidance](#). As per the CDC, facemasks are now considered an acceptable alternative when respirators are not available for healthcare workers caring for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. N95 respirators are recommended for use when performing procedures likely to generate aerosol and use should be generalized to all known or suspect cases if/when supply increases. Eye protection, gloves, and gowns are still recommended for use during patient care and, if supply issues exist, gowns can be conserved for aerosol-generating procedures. Known or suspected patients for COVID-19 can be cared in a single-person room with the door closed. Use of Airborne isolation rooms (AIIRs) should be reserved for patients undergoing aerosol-generating procedures.

Please click here for the full [CDC updated infection control and prevention guidance](#).

For current testing guidance, please see the [March 10<sup>th</sup> CAHAN](#) and please refrain from referring patients to Public Health for the sole purpose of specimen collection.

Thank you for your participation.

**CAHAN San Diego**

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