

March 29th, 2020 **UPDATED April 20, 2020**

Frequently Asked Questions: Protected Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures

When does an aerosol-generating procedure need to be considered “protected” e.g. Protected Code Blue? **UPDATED April 1, 2020**

With inclusion of the additional services now offered at Sunnybrook at Bayview campus related to COVID-19, protected precautions across all Sunnybrook campuses are to be activated for any patient/person found unresponsive/severe respiratory distress requiring an aerosol-generating medical procedure.

If a person does not meet the above criteria, routine code blue procedures are to apply e.g. with awake patients not in cardiopulmonary arrest or severe respiratory distress.

I heard that all Code Blues are to be considered Protected during the COVID-19 pandemic, is this true? **UPDATED April 1, 2020**

The Code Blue policy at Sunnybrook is defined as a response for cardiopulmonary arrest *and* emergent medical intervention. So, the answer would be no, it is only to be called a Protected Code Blue when there is a need for an aerosol-generating medical procedure.

An easy way to think of it is, if the person is awake and not in severe respiratory distress, a normal Code Blue is to be called.

This also applies to other colour code emergency responses such as Code Pink, Code Omega and Code Blue Child, for example.

What PPE is required for protected aerosol generating medical procedures? **UPDATED April 20, 2020**

- Eye Protection (e.g. face shield or equivalent)
- N95 Respirator (or equivalent)
- Gown (cloth gown preferred for invasive AGMPs)
- Gloves
- Bouffant (only for hair containment, NOT for “extra protection”). Bayview campus only (related to AGMPs provided at this campus).

What can I do if I think my neck or face got contaminated during a protected aerosol-generating medical procedure?

If you believe there may be a chance that your skin was in contact with the virus during a procedure, first thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rinse or with soap and water. Then proceed to do the same with the area in question, in a slow and methodically manner to reduce splashing. If cleaning an area near your mucus membranes (eyes, nose, mouth), keep eyes and mouth

closed and wipe downwards and away from these areas to avoid splash into your mucus membranes.

Where can I find out what is considered an aerosol-generating medical procedure, is there an actual list to define this?

Yes, there is a list of what is defined as an aerosol-generating medical procedure. You can locate this, and other helpful resources related to directions for aerosol-generating medical procedures via the [Sunnynet.ca/coronavirus](https://www.sunnynet.ca/coronavirus) resource page, under the section: [Directions on Aerosol-Generating Procedures](#)

What are some key tips for staff to remember to keep them safe during a protected procedure?

Some helpful reminders, that if practiced, will be sure to reduce exposure risk to staff are:

- Cover the mouth and nose of patient during compressions to minimize aerosolization exposure, this can be done with an oxygen face mask or surgical mask applied on patient.
- Limit staff responding (recommended staff for Code Blue is 5-6), additional staff to support for compressions or additional expertise should stand-by out of room until they are actually needed
- Limit equipment in room, typically the defibrillator, intubation tray, med tray and initial supplies needed are good to start the response.
- The most experienced intubator only is to complete intubation.
- Ensure a Safety Leader is delegated with the donning and doffing checklist to support all staff to don and doff out of PPE safely.

What is a Safety Leader and why is this required for protected procedures?

A Safety Leader is a dedicated staff member with the responsibility of ensuring safety of staff as they don and doff PPE for a protected aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP).

Aside from the AGMP itself, the actions related to doffing PPE are known to be a high-risk procedure for exposure to health care workers. Hence, it is important for staff to move slowly, methodically and as directed by the Safety Leader with the checklist developed to provide best practice guidance tips.

Where can I find the Safety Leader Checklist so I can print it for my staff?

You can locate the Safety Leader Checklist and other helpful resources related to directions for aerosol-generating procedures via the [Sunnynet.ca/coronavirus](https://www.sunnynet.ca/coronavirus) resource page, under the section: [Directions on Aerosol-Generating Procedures](#).

How can I get the “additional precautions” isolation signage that indicates protected procedures apply so responding staff know the patient is under these precautions?

The new additional precautions droplet/contact signage that highlights protected procedures apply for aerosol-generating medical procedures, can be ordered with the following code: #PR 60327