

# LAB MEDICINE

## Transporting Patients – 20 March 2020

### What personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn when transporting patients who are confirmed or under investigation for COVID-19?

- Transport and movement of the patient outside of their room should be limited to medically essential purposes.
  - *Consider providing portable x-ray equipment in patient cohort areas to reduce the need for patient transport*
- Procedure should be scheduled as the last case of the day if possible
- Notify receiving department of isolation status in advance

### For Transport

- If patient requires assistance from the bed to the wheelchair or stretcher, transporting staff should **wear all recommended PPE** (gloves, gown, surgical mask, eye protection (goggles or face shield))
- Patient should wear a surgical mask (if tolerated) and be covered with a clean sheet
- Clean and disinfect all high touch surfaces of the occupied bed, stretcher or wheelchair, such as hand rails, side rails, head board, foot board, and steering mechanism with a disinfectant wipe
- Prior to exiting the room, transporters should remove all PPE except mask and face shield according to Doffing procedure
- Perform hand hygiene

*\*\*Put on clean gown and gloves if there is an anticipated need to provide medical assistance during transport (i.e. bagging patient)*

### Receiving Department:

- Receiving department prepares room
- Don **all recommended PPE** surgical mask, gown, gloves and face shield/eye protection while awaiting patient's arrival

*Because the transporter is still wearing their original respirator or surgical mask, the transporter should take care to avoid self-contamination when donning the remainder of the recommended PPE*

### Inside Procedural Room:

- Have patient perform hand hygiene if able
- Place a new, clean sheet over patient

***Transporter:***

- Doff PPE according to Doffing Procedure, perform hand hygiene
  - If you are returning the transport vehicle without the patient back to the department: Perform low level disinfection of all transport vehicle surfaces prior to returning to department

**Cleaning of Procedure Room:**

- Clean all horizontal and high touch surfaces with disinfectant wipe
- Room should be thoroughly cleaned
- Linen to be completely removed from the room after each patient according to routine procedures
- Medical waste to be completely removed from the room and handled according to routine procedures