

COVID-19: Guidance for Ambulance Trusts

04/04/20

There has been a further update to the COVID-19: Guidance for Ambulance Trusts, the main changes that have occurred are outlined below but you can access the full document on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-ambulance-trusts>

Key Changes:

1. Case definition
2. Clarification of Aerosol Generating Procedures
3. Updates to PPE

1. Case definition is now:

Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

OR

High Temperature above 37.8

AND

Acute onset of one of the following:

- Persistent Cough
- Hoarseness
- Nasal Discharge or Congestion
- SOB
- Sore Throat
- Wheezing
- Sneezing

2. Clarification of AGPS:

The following are AGPS –

- Procedures related to CPR, for example advanced airway procedures such as laryngoscopy, intubation, extubation and surgical airway
- Manual Ventilation
- Suctioning
- Management of choking and foreign body airway obstruction removal

The following are **not** AGPS:

- Chest Compression
- Defibrillation
- Nebulisation

3. PPE is now being described as Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3

Level 1 –

Standard Precautions, assess whether there is any risk of contact with blood or body fluids, if yes then don gloves and an apron, undertake Hand Hygiene prior to donning PPE

Level 2-

Droplet Precautions, undertake Hand Hygiene, don fluid repellent surgical mask, gloves and an apron, risk assess the need for eye protection. Should be used when providing direct patient care at any time or when within two metres of any patient

Level 3-

Airborne Precautions, undertake Hand Hygiene, don FFP3 respirator mask, disposable coverall /suit, two pairs of gloves one under cuff of coverall and one over the cuff, eye protection. Should be used if undertaking an aerosol generating procedure on any patient at any time

All PPE should be removed (doffed) in accordance with the previously circulated NIAS guidance.

Further Information regarding PPE usage in other care settings:

From this weekend other care providers such as Acute Care Trusts and Private Providers such as care homes will be moving to a system of geographical zoning and colour allocation of areas. The purpose of this is to provide an easy to understand guide to the type of PPE required in specific settings. You will begin to see posters with the risk assessed colour for that area being displayed on entrance doors and bay areas within settings. Each area will be risk assessed at every shift change and a colour will be allocated to them depending on the type of patients that they are managing at that time. It is important to remember to check the colour level each time that you visit that area as circumstances can rapidly change and the risk level of the area can have to be increased/ decreased. The colours equate to a risk level and indicate which level of PPE should be worn, the colours will be –

Colour	PPE	PPE Level	COVID-19 Status
Green Standard Precautions	No PPE required when entering this area, assess each patient individually	Level 1	No known patients with or suspected as having COVID-19 in this area
Amber Droplet Precautions	Fluid shield mask to be worn at all times, can be worn for whole session. Risk assess the need for eye protection with each patient, gloves and aprons to be worn when providing patient care and changed between each patient and/or care episode on the same patient	Level 2	Patients with known or suspected COVID-19 being managed in this area, patients not requiring Aerosol Generating Procedures
Red	FFP3 mask, long sleeved gown and eye protection worn for whole session,	Level 3	Patients with known or suspected COVID-

Airborne Precautions	disposable gloves and plastic apron to be worn when providing patient care and changed between each patient and/or care episode on same patient		19 being managed in this area, patients requiring Aerosol Generating Procedure
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