



VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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Last Approved: 4/16/2020
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Owner: Jason Arimura: Director-
Pharmacy Services
Policy Area: COVID-19
References:

Hygienist Role During COVID-19 Pandemic

Role of Hygienist:

An important aspect of minimizing the risk of exposure of COVID-19 infection to staff and minimizing cross contamination of COVID-19 virus is properly putting on (donning) and taking off (doffing) personal protective equipment (PPE). The hygienist's primary role is to observe and guide the health care worker through this process as they enter and exit the room of a patient who has confirmed COVID-19 infection or is suspected to have COVID-19 infection. The process of doffing PPE poses a significant risk to staff and requires detailed and careful guidance from the hygienist through the process.

Additional duties of the hygienist include:

- Ensure the area outside of the room is set up appropriately.
- Ensure that PPE closets remain stocked.
- Ensure compliance with hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and environmental cleanliness through monitoring, advocating and facilitating solutions.
- Retrieving needed supplies or resources for the health care worker to minimize the traffic going in and out of the patient's room.
- Ensure staff log in when entering a COVID-19 isolation room.

The hygienist should not be viewed as someone who is able to assist with tasks outside of the duties listed.

Hygienist Training:

- A. Nursing Education will provide training for hygienists. All staff requiring training will be directed to Nursing Education.
- B. Training will consist of the following:
 1. Overview of the hygienist role.
 2. Review the *PPE Donning and Doffing* document (Attachment A).
 3. View the [VCMC Donning and Doffing PPE, Droplet Surgical Mask](#) video. This process will be used for health care workers entering a droplet precaution isolation room.
 4. View the [VCMC Donning and Doffing PPE, COVID-19, N95](#) video. This process will be used for health care workers entering an airborne precaution isolation room.
 5. View the [VCMC Donning and Doffing OR Version](#) video. This process will be used for health care workers who work in the Operating Room (OR).

6. Review of proper room set up:
 - a. Regular rooms with taped outlines delineating clean and dirty spaces.
 - b. Rooms with anterooms.
 7. Review of various signage used.
 8. Review of aerosol generating procedures.
 9. Review of *VCMC/SPH Transportation Within the Hospital COVID-19* document (Attachment B).
 10. Review of policy [R.90 Powered Air Purifying Respirator \(PAPR\)](#) and PAPR cleaning process.
- C. Upon arrival to the nursing unit, meet with Clinical Nurse Manager or designee for tour of the nursing unit.
- D. When available, the training hygienist may be paired with an experienced hygienist to gain initial experience.

Hygienist Workforce Coordination:

- A. Nursing supervisors shall coordinate the staffing effort for hygienists throughout the hospitals.
 1. Department managers shall provide the Nursing Supervisor of names of staff that are available to staff the hygienist role.
- B. If the staff member has not had training, the staff member will be referred to Nursing Education for training.

All revision dates:

4/16/2020, 4/9/2020

Attachments

[Attachment A PPE Donning and Doffing](#)

[Attachment B VCMC/SPH Transportation Within the Hospital COVID-19](#)

Approval Signatures

| Step Description | Approver | Date |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|
| PolicyStat Administrator | Jason Arimura: Director-Pharmacy Services | 4/16/2020 |
| Policy Owner | Jason Arimura: Director-Pharmacy Services | 4/16/2020 |