



# VENTURA COUNTY HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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**Owner:** Todd Flosi, MD: Chief Medical Officer, VCMC & SPH  
**Policy Area:** COVID-19  
**References:**

## COVID-19 Trauma Activation Policy

### COVID-19 Trauma Activation Considerations and Guidelines

Trauma patient evaluation should *not* be delayed to determine COVID-19 status, however appropriate precautions should be taken. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel may have answers to COVID-19 screening questions prior to arrival to the Emergency Department. If not, all trauma patients should be screened according to policy, and appropriate isolation measures must be taken. Documentation of screening should occur in emergency department (ED) physician and trauma history and physical notes.

**Ensure strict use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for ALL trauma patients** (hat, gown, mask, gloves, and eye protection).

- If patient is **able** and answers "No" to all COVID-19 screening questions, and has no respiratory symptoms, use usual (Non-COVID-19) PPE\*\*.
- For trauma patients (all tiers) **unable** to be screened, **strict** use of PPE for airborne + contact precautions should be maintained.
- If the patient's airway is clear and patient can tolerate, immediately place a face mask on the patient.
- Obtain COVID-19 antigen test for all trauma patients at the time of arrival, and modify subsequent use of PPE based on results.

**To minimize the number of personnel at the bedside to only those required for direct patient care, only essential members of the trauma team necessary to ensure proper delivery of timely care will be needed in the trauma bay. All others will remain outside of room and available as needed.**

**Tier 1** team in room: ED physician, 2 Residents (Resident running code and Airway Resident; additional residents can join if further help is needed), 1 RN, 1 Respiratory Therapist, and 1 Trauma Attending (**6 staff**)\*  
*[Note: Scribe will be close to door, and will not be considered part of main team].*

**Tier 2** team in room: ED physician, 1 Resident (Resident running code; added resident(s) can join if further help is needed), 1 RN, 1 Respiratory Therapist and 1 Trauma Attending (**5 staff**)\*. Same as above for extra staff, as needed.

**Tier 3** consult: Emergency physician evaluates patient with / without RN; on-call Trauma Resident is summoned to evaluate patient; on-call Trauma Attending eventually evaluates patient.

*\*Additional staff may enter and treat patient when COVID-19 screening has been addressed.*

*\*\* Modified PPE may be available – i.e. Garbage bag cut outs for head and arms, as well as surgical sleeves. While modified gowns will be eventually discarded, eye protection and shields can be cleansed with recommended Health Care Agency (HCA) policy wipes, and made available for the next case.*

\*\*\*\*While emphasis has been placed on moving trauma patients quickly, strict adherence to this COVID-19 policy will ultimately add time to the overall initial evaluation of patients.

All revision dates:

10/28/2021, 2/4/2021, 10/27/2020, 4/6/2020

## Attachments

No Attachments

## Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
PolicyStat Administrator	Jason Arimura: Associate Hospital Administrator-AncillaryServices	10/28/2021
Policy Owner	Todd Flosi, MD: Chief Medical Officer, VCMC & SPH	10/28/2021

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