

Frequently Asked Questions for Patient Safety Attendants (PSAs) or Sitters Assigned to a Patient with or Suspected of Having COVID-19

Where can I find information on what type of personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn when caring for a patient with COVID-19 or suspected of having COVID-19?

- The [Updated PPE Recommendations for COVID-19 Evaluation and Management](#) lists the type of PPE that should be worn.
- The isolation sign on the patients’ room door will guide you.
- You can ask the patients nurse or the charge nurse

Do I need to wear PPE while sitting in the patient’s room?

- Staff should wear all recommended PPE in the patient room

Can a patient with COVID-19 have visitors?

- COVID-19 patients cannot have visitors.
- If a visitor comes in to see the patient, provide them with the [Visitor Restriction Guidelines](#). Apologize for the inconvenience and thank them for their understanding and compliance.

What job aides can I refer to for putting on and taking off PPEs?

- The [PPE/MaskingToolkit](#) contains videos and job aids to direct you.

Videos:

- [Droplet/Contact with Eye Protection](#) - Internal
- [Droplet/Contact with Eye Protection](#) - External
- [Airborne/Contact PAPR](#) - Internal
- [Airborne/Contact PAPR](#) - External
- [Airborne/Contact N95](#) - Internal
- [Airborne/Contact N95](#) – External

Job Aides:

- [Contact/Airborne PAPR](#)
- [Contact/Airborne N95](#)
- [Droplet/Contact with Eye Protection](#)

More...

If I need to use airborne precautions for a patient do, I use the PAPR or N95 mask?

- Using a PAPR vs. N95 is designated by each facility, clinic, and their respiratory protection plan. Before using a PAPR, training and a skills pass off is completed per the facility plan. If a PAPR is available and you are trained, you should always use a PAPR over the N95 to preserve supply. N95s require fit testing to the specific make, model, and size. If you have questions regarding PAPR or N95 use consult your supervisor or local Employee Health.

What are the aerosolizing procedures that I would need to wear a PAPR or N95 mask for if I stay in the room?

- Bronchoscopy, sputum induction, elective or emergent intubation, autopsies, CPR, open suctioning of airways.

What do I do if I need to provide hands on help for a patient who is having an aerosolizing procedure done and I don't have access to a PAPR or N95 mask?

- **Speak Up** and use **Stop and Resolve** before proceeding-inform the clinician who is performing the procedure that you do not have a PAPR or N95 mask, but you will locate someone who can come and help.

How can I ensure I get a break when I am in the patient safety attendant role?

- Report to the charge nurse upon arrival to the unit. The charge nurse will coordinate a patient safety attendant to sit with the patient so you can take a break.
- When you are ready for a break contact the patient care nurse or charge nurse for replacement prior to leaving for breaks, lunch etc.