Anesthesia Care Guidelines

Anesthesia Providers,

As we carefully assess and update the ever changing guidance from the CDC’s care of COVID-19 patients, we want to ensure you that we have your concerns at the forefront. We understand the critical role that you play and the vulnerability that you are in during the process of managing airways of all patients.

Using the CDC guidelines we have developed PPE guidelines (attached) that outline care situations and PPE required. Patients diagnosed with COVID-19, patients under investigation (PUI) requires the use of N95 respirator or PAPR plus gloves, gown, face shield/goggles. Additionally we would recommend using n95 respirators during urgent and emergent intubations as there may not have been the opportunity to do symptom screening, and on pediatric intubations since kids can have limited symptoms with COVID-19 infection. Use of n95s or PAPRs on adult cases with no risk factors and no symptoms of infection is not indicated, and should be avoided to preserve supply of n95 masks.

AANA has sited the similar precautions and added that it may be prudent to take highest precautions for all patients, however, due to the uncertainty of supplies we must utilize conservative efforts to ensure demand does not overwhelm supply.

One of the things we have learned is that careful planning is key. We have already shared guidelines with the OR leadership for conserving supplies which must continue. Surgical masks can be reused if they are not moist or become soiled. N95 mask can also be reused by following the CDC guidelines for extending use of N95 masks.

**CDC guidelines for extending use of N95 masks are listed below.**

- Discard N95 respirators following use during aerosol generating procedures.
- Discard N95 respirators contaminated with blood, respiratory or nasal secretions, or other bodily fluids from patients.
- Discard N95 respirators following close contact with any patient co-infected with an infectious disease requiring contact precautions.
- Use a cleanable face shield (preferred) or a surgical mask over an N95 respirator and/or other steps (e.g., masking patients, use of engineering controls), when feasible to reduce surface contamination of the respirator.
- Hang used respirators in a designated storage area or keep them in a clean, breathable container such as a paper bag between uses. To minimize potential cross-contamination, store respirators so that they do not touch each other and the person using the respirator is clearly identified. Storage containers should be disposed of or cleaned regularly.

Thank you for your ongoing support and care of our patients.