COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidelines for Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
5 April 2020

General

- COVID-19 is spread via contact and droplet routes.
- Asymptomatic patients may be infected with COVID-19 virus.
- Surgical procedures involving the nasal, oral and oropharyngeal mucosal regions are high risk for infection of medical personnel due to aerosolization of the COVID-19 virus.
- These guidelines are based on the best currently available evidence and are subject to change.

- Airborne protection is needed if an aerosol generating procedure (AGP) is taking place.
- Only emergency (life/limb) procedures should be undertaken in COVID-19 positive patients.

Testing

1. Where time and resources permit, preoperative COVID-19 testing, along with other screening tools, can help to risk stratify patients.

   - Allows more targeted selection of appropriate PPE and conservation of these resources.
   - There is risk of false negatives- this can be reduced with repeat testing over time.
   - Where possible, patients should be directed to self-isolate prior to the procedure.

2. Where time or resources do not permit preoperative testing, then patients undergoing high-risk AGPs should be considered at risk of being COVID positive.
PPE

Powered, Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR) affords the most protection against transmission

- PAPR is the gold standard PPE for COVID positive patients requiring emergency (life/limb) AGPs.
- This may be a limited resource in some hospitals.
- PAPR may lead to accidental transmission during doffing - training in its use is essential.
- PAPR may be impractical when surgical loupes, headlight or a microscope are required.

Members may wish to consider using PAPR if:
1. Higher risk procedure where there is significant aerosol or prolonged duration of surgery.
2. Emergency procedure where there is insufficient time for testing.
3. Member is immune compromised/at higher risk of poor outcome from COVID infection.

Note: N95 masks are less effective than PAPR but may be acceptable alternatives

PPE Guidelines

Examination of Low-Risk Patient
- Surgical mask
- Eye Protection
- Impervious Gown
- Non-Sterile Gloves

Urgent Aerosol Generating Procedure in Screened Low-Risk Patient
- Location: Standard Theatre
- Surgical cap and overboots
- N95 mask (High risk clinician or prolonged procedure - consider PAPR)
- Face Shield or Goggles
- Sterile Gown
- Sterile Gloves

Emergency Aerosol Generating Procedure in COVID-19 Positive or Unscreened Patient
- Location: COVID Designated Theatre (negative pressure room where available)
- PAPR (or N95 with Face Shield or Goggles if PAPR unavailable)
- Overboots
- Sterile Gown
- Sterile Gloves x Two Layers