

Applies to:	Clinicians, Providers and staff who are providing care, those providing aftercare, and those responsible for cleaning and preparing the operating room (OR).
Purpose:	To provide appropriate direction for selection of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and to provide guidance for different anesthesia approaches and for surgeries with risk of aerosolization.

Protocol for Perioperative Management of Surgical Patients

Note: This table is adapted from 22 May, 2020 BCCDS/BC Ministry of Health [Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) Protocol for Surgical Procedures During COVID-19](#).

	Infection Prevention & Control Risk Category*		
	Green	Yellow	Red
Intubation Team Recommended PPE <i>Limit personnel in the OR to anesthesiologist, RN +/- AA (Red/Yellow)</i>	All staff in OR suite don routine PPE: <input type="checkbox"/> Surgical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection <input type="checkbox"/> Gown/Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> No air exchanges post	All staff in OR suite don: <input type="checkbox"/> fit-tested N95 respirator <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection <input type="checkbox"/> Gown/Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> 14 minute air exchange in OR where ACH is 20	All staff in OR suite don: <input type="checkbox"/> fit-tested N95 respirator <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection <input type="checkbox"/> Gown/Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> 14 minute air exchange in OR where ACH is 20
Surgical Team	All staff in OR suite don routine level of: <input type="checkbox"/> Surgical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection <input type="checkbox"/> Gown/Gloves	All staff in OR suite don: <input type="checkbox"/> fit-tested N95 respirator** <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection <input type="checkbox"/> Gown/Gloves	All staff in OR suite don: <input type="checkbox"/> fit-tested N95 respirator <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection <input type="checkbox"/> Gown/Gloves
Extubation Team <i>Limit personnel in the OR to anesthesiologist, RN +/- AA (Red/Yellow)</i>	All staff in OR suite don routine PPE: <input type="checkbox"/> Surgical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection <input type="checkbox"/> Gown/Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> No air exchanges post	All staff in OR suite don: <input type="checkbox"/> fit-tested N95 respirator <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection <input type="checkbox"/> Gown/Gloves	All staff in OR suite don: <input type="checkbox"/> fit-tested N95 respirator <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection <input type="checkbox"/> Gown/Gloves
Phase 1 Recovery	<input type="checkbox"/> In the post-anesthesia recovery (PAR) routine PPE per Inpatient Care Areas live link PPE Required During COVID-19 Pandemic <input type="checkbox"/> No need to delay moving patient to PAR following extubation	<input type="checkbox"/> In the post-anesthesia recovery (PAR) using droplet/contact precautions <input type="checkbox"/> Patient may be moved to PAR after 14 minute air exchange in OR where ACH is 20	<input type="checkbox"/> Recover in the OR suite until ready to move to appropriate isolation room <input type="checkbox"/> If recovery must occur in another isolation location, patient may be moved post AGMP (i.e extubation) after 14 minute air exchange in OR where ACH is 20
Air Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> No need to wait to begin cleaning	<input type="checkbox"/> No need to wait to begin cleaning after air exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Begin cleaning and disinfection after period of appropriate air exchanges
Cleaning and Disinfection Staff	All cleaning staff in OR don appropriate PPE for routine cleaning in the OR	All cleaning staff in OR don: <input type="checkbox"/> Surgical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection <input type="checkbox"/> Gown/Gloves	All cleaning staff in OR don: <input type="checkbox"/> Surgical mask <input type="checkbox"/> Eye protection <input type="checkbox"/> Gown/Gloves
Disposition	Return patient to appropriate inpatient unit.	Return patient to appropriate inpatient unit based on further patient risk assessment.	Return patient to appropriate COVID-19 ward if confirmed positive or isolation room if unknown

* Because of the potential risk of difficult intubations, the anesthesiologist may choose to don an N95 respirator for any patient, regardless of Patient Risk Category. Additionally, any member of the surgical team may choose an N95 respirator for high risk procedures¹ where aerosol generation is anticipated, regardless of Patient Risk Category. Individual decisions shall be respected by the surgical team, but need not change the PPE used by other team members.

**At the discretion of the surgical team, surgical masks may be used in place of N95 respirators after appropriate air exchanges.

¹High risk procedures include: nasopharyngeal, oropharyngeal, open lung surgery, any surgery involving sinus cavity/skull base.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Protocol for Surgical Procedures During COVID-19

PATIENT RISK CATEGORY

COVID-19 Symptoms/ Signs*	COVID-19 Exposures/ Contacts*	Testing Required	COVID -19 Test Results (if applicable)**	Risk Category	Proceed with Scheduled Procedure
NO	NO	NO	NOT REQUIRED	GREEN	YES
NO	NO	NO	NEGATIVE	GREEN	YES
NO	YES	YES	NEGATIVE	GREEN	YES
UNKNOWN	NO	YES	NEGATIVE	GREEN	YES
YES	NO	YES	NEGATIVE	GREEN	YES
YES	YES	YES	NEGATIVE	GREEN	YES
UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	YES	UNKNOWN/PENDING	YELLOW	YES
NO	YES	YES	UNKNOWN/PENDING	RED	ONLY IF URGENT, EMERGENT
YES	NO	YES	UNKNOWN/PENDING	RED	ONLY IF URGENT, EMERGENT
YES	YES	YES	UNKNOWN/PENDING	RED	ONLY IF URGENT, EMERGENT
-	-		POSITIVE	RED	ONLY IF URGENT, EMERGENT
-	-		CRGV/HSILD POSITIVE	RED	ONLY IF URGENT, EMERGENT

*If a caregiver/household member is symptomatic or has risk factors, that household member should be tested as well.

**Interpret the negative test in terms of the clinical context. If there is a confirmed COVID-19 exposure within the household, and a strong clinical suspicion of COVID-19 despite negative testing, treat at RED.

AIR EXCHANGE TABLE

Air Changes Per Hour	Minutes Required for 99% Removal of Airborne Microorganisms
2	138
4	69
6	46
12	23
15	18
20	14
50	6