

# Proper Transport of Patients With COVID-19 Within the Hospital

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## COVID-19 Resources

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# Proper Transport of Patients With COVID-19 Within the Hospital

## COVID-19 Resources

- Communication, communication, communication
- Why is transport necessary?
- Where are you transporting to?
- How long will it last?
- Planning at origin
- Planning at destination

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## The Basic Questions

- Why is transport necessary?
  - Emergency medical procedures, testing (eg, CT, MRI)
- Where are you transporting to?
  - Radiology, OR, IR
  - Other procedures, testing in the patient's room
- How long will it last?
  - Shortest route
  - Route planning, floor maps
  - Least amount of exposure throughout the hospital

## Planning at Origin

- Healthcare personnel in the receiving area should be notified in advance.
- Route planning: Use predetermined routes. Clear hallways.
- Nonintubated patients should wear a face mask to contain secretions and should be covered with a clean sheet.
- Intubated patients should have a HEPA filter inserted between the bag-valve-mask breathing device and the patient.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control: FAQs for COVID-19. Updated April 1, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/infection-prevention-control-faq.html>. Accessed April 2, 2020.

## HEPA Filters

### COVID-19 Resources

- Filters can be placed on ventilators just prior to the exhalation valve.
  - This prevents unfiltered expired gases from entering the room.
- For manual resuscitation devices, a filter can be placed on the expiratory port, prior to the PEEP valve.
  - This ensures that the expiratory gases are filtered before entering the room.



Photographs courtesy of Jacob Parmentier.

## Preparing for Transport

### COVID-19 Resources

- Transporters should wear recommended PPE (gloves, gown, face mask) and eye protection (goggles or disposable face shield that covers the front and sides of the face).
- After patient transfer to the transport modality (and before exiting the room), transporters should remove their gown, gloves, and eye protection and perform hand hygiene.
- Patient wearing face mask: no recommendation for PPE but face mask use by the transporter (recommended).
- Additional PPE if there is an anticipated need to provide medical assistance during transport (eg, helping the patient replace a dislodged face mask).

## Planning at Destination

- Receiving personnel (e.g., in radiology) and the transporter (if assisting with transfer) should perform hand hygiene and wear all recommended PPE.
- If still wearing original respirator or face mask, the transporter should take care to avoid self-contamination when donning and doffing the remainder of the recommended PPE.

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## Summary

- The ICU team contacts the destination and receiving area before transport.
- Patients should be transported only for procedures and studies deemed essential for patient care.
- Use transport routes and clear hallways if needed.
- Intubated patients should have a HEPA filter inserted between the bag-valve-mask breathing device and the patient.
- Patients who are not ventilated should wear a surgical mask.