



## **COVID-19 Patient Transfer Guideline SCGH**

**Background:** Movement of suspected/confirmed COVID-19 cases between clinical areas poses an exposure risk to staff, other patients and visitors. Transfer of these patients should be kept to a minimum where possible. This guideline is to be used in conjunction with the latest infection control guidelines and PPE regulations.

For a patient labelled a RED (confirmed) or ORANGE (suspected) COVID-19, the following is to apply on patient transfer:

### **1. The patient**

- The relevant airborne or droplet precautions apply
- The patient must NOT use a N95/P2 mask under any circumstances
- The patient to wear a surgical face mask unless requiring oxygen
- If requiring oxygen therapy:
  - Ideally wean to nasal prongs and wear under surgical mask
  - If requiring a Hudson or non-rebreather face mask, then no surgical mask required

### **2. Staff**

- The relevant airborne or droplet precautions apply
- Perform hand hygiene and don new PPE
- PPE for transfer includes long sleeved fluid resistant gown, surgical mask, disposable full face visor and gloves fully covering the sleeves of the gown.
- N95/P2 mask must only be worn if the patient is listed as requiring airborne precautions.
- Patients moving to and from ICU should be treated with airborne precautions due to the high viral load in critically ill patients. This is regardless of whether the patient is intubated due to the potential risk of inadvertent circuit disconnection.
- A fit check is to be performed each time a N95/P2 mask is donned.

### **3. Transfer**

- Good communication is vital for COVID-19 patient transfers
- Confirm the receiving area is ready to receive the patient prior to transfer
- Confirm which team will escort the patient.
- Minimise the number of staff involved in patient transfer
  - Nurse and HSA as a minimum
  - Medical escort if critically unstable/intubated
  - Second HSA to walk ahead and to secure an empty lift. Gold lift swipe card access is ideal. This HSA will maintain a safe distance of at least 2m from the patient at all times, and will not need to don PPE.
  - Only essential staff involved in transfer are to enter lift.
- At the completion of the transfer, all staff leaving the receiving department must doff PPE and perform hand hygiene.
- Disinfection of the equipment used on the patient and the room is required once vacated by the patient.