COVID-19 Infection Control: Aerosol-Generating Procedures

For healthcare workers performing aerosol-generating procedures on patients with COVID-19, we recommend using fitted respirator masks (N95 respirators, or higher) instead of surgical/medical masks, in addition to other personal protective equipment (i.e., gloves, gown, and eye protection that covers the front and sides of the face, such as a face shield or safety goggles).

Aerosol-generating procedures include:

- Endotracheal intubation and extubation
- Manual ventilation
- Open suctioning (including open tracheostomy suctioning)
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- Bronchoscopy (unless carried out through a closed circuit ventilation system)
- Surgery and post-mortem procedures in which high-speed devices are used
- Dental procedures employing the use of intraoral handpieces, ultrasonic scalers or air/water syringes
- Non-invasive ventilation (NIV) (e.g. bi level positive airway pressure ventilation (BiPAP) and continuous positive airway pressure (C-PAP))
- High frequency oscillatory ventilation (HFOV)
- Induction of sputum

Based on limited available data, it is uncertain whether aerosols generated from some procedures may be infectious, such as:

- Nebulizer administration
- High flow O2 delivery

* Aerosols generated by nebulizers are derived from medication in the nebulizer. It is uncertain whether potential associations between performing this common procedure and increased risk of infection might be due to aerosols generated by the procedure or due to increased contact between those administering the nebulized medication and infected patients.

---


To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.
More COVID-19 Information and Resources

Stay up-to-date on the current COVID-19 situation in Washington, Governor Inslee’s proclamations, symptoms, how it spreads, and how and when people should get tested. See our Frequently Asked Questions for more information.

The risk of COVID-19 is not connected to race, ethnicity or nationality. Stigma will not help to fight the illness. Share accurate information with others to keep rumors and misinformation from spreading.

- WA State Department of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19)
- WA State Coronavirus Response (COVID-19)
- Find Your Local Health Department or District
- CDC Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Stigma Reduction Resources

Have more questions about COVID-19? Call our hotline: 1-800-525-0127. For interpretative services, press # when they answer and say your language. (Open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.) For questions about your own health, COVID-19 testing, or testing results, please contact your health care provider.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.