

NYSNA Recommendations and Resources for Reopening during COVID-19
Emergency Department Settings: NYSNAs Nursing Education & Practice and Health & Safety



Unit	Pre-Screening	Criteria for Testing	Unit Modifications	PPE	Cleaning	Visitor Access	RN to Patient Ratio
Emergency Departments	<p>Evaluate necessity of care on an ER unit based on clinical needs. Prioritize services that if deferred are most likely to result in patient harm.</p> <p>Establish designated zones where patients can be screened for COVID – 19.</p>	<p>PUI's should be prioritized for testing.</p> <p>If patient presents with any of the following they should be tested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cough • Sore throat • Chills • Repeated shaking with chills • Muscle pain • Headache • Loss of taste or smell • Contact with someone known to have COVID-19 • Fever of 100 F • Shortness of breath <p>For patients undergoing a procedure or operation, a viral test should be performed 24 hours prior to the procedure. If testing is not available, patient should self-quarantine for 14 days prior to the procedure.</p>	<p>ED's should be geographically zoned as COVID or Non-COVID areas.</p> <p>Distance patients 6 feet apart when possible. Alternately expand designated ED unit and staff capacity. Maintain "transmission of virus" control by adding temporary curtains or screens.</p> <p>Air handling systems with appropriate directionality, filtration, and exchange rate should be installed and maintained. AIRR should have a minimum of 6 air exchanges per hour and air from these rooms should be exhausted directly to the outside or through a HEPA filter before recirculation.</p> <p>All doors should remain closed except when entering or leaving.</p>	<p>All patient care staff should be wearing N95 or better equipment with eye protection (personal glasses or contacts not adequate). Gloves, isolation gown for nurses on COVID units.</p> <p>For Non-COVID units surgical mask, gown, gloves, as per usually and ordinary standards of practice.</p> <p>For the patient: Surgical masks</p> <p>ED staff should have available PAPR equipment for codes, intubations, etc. along with dedicated rooms/areas with</p>	<p>Hand hygiene by using ABHR with 60-95% alcohol or washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.</p> <p>Use EPA approved emerging viral pathogen cleansers.</p> <p>Clean and disinfect all surfaces before and after all treatments.</p> <p>Sanitize all high touch surfaces.</p> <p>Disposable medical supplies should be discarded not reused.</p>	<p>Refuse visitors who have symptoms or test positive on screening.</p> <p>Visitors should be made aware of visitor policy and requirements including wearing surgical masks, handwashing and any limitations on visitation.</p> <p>Limit visiting hours and use of visitor rooms.</p>	<p>RN's should not float between COVID and non-COVID units.</p> <p>Staff should be continuously and routinely screened for symptoms of COVID.</p> <p>ED 1:4</p> <p>Reduce exposure time to COVID virus by organizing and bundling tasks, use of runners/helpers, and team nursing concept.</p>

**NYSNA Recommendations and Resources for Reopening during COVID-19
Emergency Department Settings: NYSNAs Nursing Education & Practice and Health & Safety**



			<p>Concurrently:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct air flow inspections to determine what improvements can be made. 2. Begin investigating the use of dedicated downward flow ventilation directly over each patient area. 3. Air changes should be boosted above 6 per hour, incorporating more outdoor air. 4. Conduct air flow inspections to determine problems and arrive at recommendations for moving contaminated air quickly away from patients and staff. 	<p>improved ventilation.</p> <p>Departments should start to incorporate elastomeric equipment to build greater resiliency during the crisis.</p>		
<p>Resources: https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-recommendations-reopening-facilities-provide-non-emergent-care.pdf https://psnet.ahrq.gov/web-mm/nurse-staffing-ratios-crucible-money-policy-research-and-patient-care-nursingeducation.lww.com/blog.entry.html/2016/11/10/the_importance_ofth-GCAE.html</p>						