



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

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Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Colleagues:

Situation Update

Marin County Public Health and our health care partners are committed to protecting our healthcare workforce and safely caring for patients. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initially recommended airborne, droplet and contact protocols for COVID-19. We now understand that COVID-19 primarily spreads by droplets from infected persons. This evidence supports shifting toward droplet-based precautions.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is encouraging healthcare systems to implement strategies to [conserve supplies](#). Marin County Public Health is managing critical resources as the virus spreads and further impacts our community. We are anticipating and planning for a major surge in hospitalizations and critical care utilization. The responsible management of resources is essential to preserve resources, capacity, and staff to care for our community. Personal protective equipment (PPE) stewardship is essential to ensure that PPE supplies remain available to safely care for community as cases of this virus increase.

Recommendations

- Complete and implement [CDC Comprehensive PPE Training](#) for staff
- Review and implement [CDC Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE](#).
 - Shift eye protection supplies from disposable to re-usable devices (i.e., goggles and reusable face shields).
 - Implement extended use of eye protection and facemasks. Adhere to recommended manufacturer instructions for cleaning and disinfection.
- Maintain enhanced respiratory precautions, which includes disposable gowns, gloves, and eye wear (goggles, safety glasses, or face shields). Re-use PPE components as feasible and safe.
- Place patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in a single room rather than a negative pressure room, unless performing high risk, aerosol-generating procedures (see below).
- Use droplet precautions in routine care for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Use surgical or “isolation” mask rather than an N-95 respirator.
- Use airborne precautions for high risk, aerosol-generating procedures that would generate airborne particles (intubation, bronchoscopy, sputum induction, CPAP, BiPAP, and high-flow ventilation). Use the appropriate equipment, including CAPR or PAPR (if not available, N95 can be used).

Additional Information

World Health Organization (WHO). <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>

Marin Health and Human Services
<https://www.marinhhs.org/coronavirus>

Sincerely,

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