

COVID-19: IS YOUR FACILITY PREPARED?

- Has your facility conducted a hazard assessment for all employees related to COVID-19 including healthcare personnel and any non-healthcare personnel who may have close contact with COVID-19 PUIs (patients under investigation) or patients with confirmed cases of COVID-19?
- Does the facility have negative air pressure isolation rooms designated for the care of persons under investigation (PUIs) for the virus and for patients confirmed to have the virus both in the ED and on an in-patient units?
- Where are the rooms located?
- Are the rooms working properly and under constant monitoring for airflow and exhaust?
- Does the facility have a contingency plan to insure an adequate supply of ventilators, and related equipment, in the event they are needed?
- Has the facility taken steps to ensure an adequate supply of respirators (N95s/PAPRS) for hospital personnel and surgical masks (surgical masks are to be used by the PUI only, not for healthcare personnel), taking into account hoarding and vendor shortages?
- Does the facility have a contingency plan if supplies of respirators or other PPE become inadequate?
- Does the facility have a screening protocol established in order to immediately identify patients who may have, or may be at risk for, COVID-19?
- Does the facility have a protocol established that reduces the risk that PUIs or patients with confirmed COVID-19 and any visitors with close contact who have accompanied them (such as family members) spread the virus to staff and other patients and visitors? This should include EDs, ambulatory care clinics, surgical patients and other in-patient areas.
- Does the facility have a protocol established that reduces the risk that PUIs or patients confirmed to have COVID-19 or their family members spread the virus to staff other patients and visitors? This should include the EDs, ambulatory care clinics, ORs and other in-patient areas.
- Does the facility have procedures in place in the event that staff are exposed to COVID-19 at work? Will staff be paid for the time they may be taken off duty?
- Does the facility patient care protocol set out under what circumstances PUIs or confirmed patients are transferred to other facilities for care?
- Has the facility assessed the adequacy of environmental cleaning and disinfecting procedures for this particular hazard?
- Does the facility have plans regarding visitor access and movement within the facility specific to this hazard?
- Is there a plan in place for nurses who are pregnant and do not want to work on the unit where a PUI or confirmed COVID-19 patient is being treated?

If you have Concerns about COVID-19 and your facility's preparedness, please contact your CWA Local.