CDC's Role with Healthcare Systems and Hospitals during COVID-19

CDC works with healthcare systems, hospitals, and others to reduce morbidity and mortality, minimize disease transmission, protect healthcare personnel, and preserve healthcare system function. Protecting the nation's healthcare workforce is an urgent priority during COVID-19 and any pandemic CDC provides data, guidance, recommendations, training, and support to help healthcare personnel, hospitals, and healthcare systems do the critical work of caring for the sick and minimizing death. One important measure to protect healthcare personnel is to reduce their risk for exposure in the workplace.

- CDC has recommended that all U.S. healthcare facilities put policies into place requiring everyone entering the facility to practice source control, regardless of symptoms.
- CDC's guidance on infection control helps to protect healthcare personnel and reduce facility risks through prompt screening and triage, hand hygiene, source control, and effective environmental cleaning.
- CDC has provided strategies to help hospitals optimize the supply of N95 respirators and other respiratory protection devices for use during high-risk procedures while still protecting healthcare personnel.
- CDC has developed a checklist which helps healthcare facilities prevent spread, protect staff and prioritize other healthcare facility needs and support.

CDC Information for Hospitals

Recognizing that COVID-19 can be spread to other people by people who do not have symptoms (asymptomatic) or who eventually develop symptoms (pre-symptomatic), CDC has recommended **all U.S. healthcare facilities** put policies into place **requiring everyone entering the facility to practice source control**, regardless of symptoms. This includes **all healthcare personnel, patients, and visitors**. Healthcare personnel caring for patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 should adhere to CDC's recommendations for infection prevention and control. CDC has posted a large amount of helpful and science-based information for hospitals at its COVID-19 site for healthcare professionals.

Key Resources for Hospitals

These are some key resources CDC developed to help hospitals confront issues arising from COVID-19:

- Hospital Preparedness Tool and Checklist
- Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages
- Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting
- Clinical management of COVID-19 patients
- Infection prevention and control recommendations for COVID-19
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) optimization strategies and PPE burn rate calculator
- Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators
- Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19
- Online training for healthcare providers on a variety of areas including clinical care, infection control, personal protective equipment support, potential exposure mitigation and more.
- Public Health Communicators Guidance for healthcare communications professionals to assist hospitals in developing and executing communications plans before, during, and after COVID-19