

PPE for high risk AGP in LTHT Operating Theatres -July 2020

What are now thought to be aerosol generating procedures which pose a risk?

Respiratory tract suctioning
Bronchoscopy
Manual ventilation (Bag valve mask)
Tracheal intubation and extubation
Tracheotomy or tracheostomy procedures (insertion or removal)
Upper ENT airway procedures that involve suctioning
Upper gastro-intestinal endoscopy where there is open suctioning of the upper respiratory tract
High speed cutting in surgery/post mortem procedures if this involves the respiratory tract or paranasal sinuses
Dental procedures using high speed devices such as ultrasonic scalers and high speed drills
Non-invasive ventilation (NIV); Bi-level Positive Airway Pressure Ventilation (BiPAP) and Continuous Positive Airway Pressure Ventilation (CPAP)
High Frequency Oscillatory Ventilation (HFOV)
Induction of sputum using nebulised saline
High flow nasal oxygen (HFNO)

*Please note: High speed medical cutting instruments not being employed in the respiratory tract/paranasal sinuses are **not** thought to pose a risk to health care workers.*

What has not changed?

We are still in a period of National sustained transmission. Precautions are required for aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) detailed above in all patients irrespective of COVID-19 status.

Recommendation:

AGP PPE is no longer necessary for operating procedures which are not listed.

Droplet PPE should still be worn for delivery of care within 2 metres.
(aprons, Fluid Resistant Surgical Masks (FRSM), eye protection and gloves)

Individuals who perceive themselves to be high risk may continue to use FFP3 masks without disclosure of reason.

References

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/893320/COVID-19_infection_prevention_and_control_guidance_complete.pdf

<https://hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/assessing-the-evidence-base-for-medical-procedures-which-create-a-higher-risk-of-respiratory-infection-transmission-from-patient-to-healthcare-worker/>

<https://icmanaesthesiacovid-19.org/managing-theatre-processes-for-planned-surgery-between-covid-19-surges>

This recommendation is subject to regular review and will be revised in accordance with advice from the National independent AGP panel (AGPpanel@phe.gov.uk)