COVID-19 Operating Room Risk Stratification for Surgical Patients

Note: latest updates will appear in blue

Introduction

Based on the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in Manitoba, patients who are scheduled for elective surgery should be tested for COVID-19 wherever possible as per “Same Day, Next Day” AGMP Rule to guide decisions regarding PPE and OR procedures for AGMPs. Refer to: https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-agmps-and-negative-test.pdf.

The “Same Day/Next Day” AGMP Rule has proven to be very reliable and safe when the test result is negative.

Pathway

1. **Negative COVID-19 Test (Same Day/Next Day)** - For patients with a negative COVID-19 test result as per “Same Day, Next Day” Rule for AGMPs, the patient should be treated as per Column 1 in Figure 1 below.

2. **COVID-19 Recovered** - For patients that are identified as COVID-19 “Red” Recovered, no COVID-19 test is required and the patient may be treated as per Column 1 in Figure 1 below. Refer to: https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-ipc-guidance-recovered-covid-19.pdf.

3. **No COVID-19 Test** - For patients that have not received a COVID-19 test result as per “Same Day, Next Day” Rule for AGMPs, IF the patient answers NO to all exposure, symptoms and travel criteria the patient may be treated as per Column 2 in Figure 1 below. Refer to screening tool: https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/COVID-19-update.pdf.

   For clarity, patient must have NO clinical symptoms of COVID-19 and NO exposure or travel history.

4. **COVID-19 Positive Patients; Patients with Symptoms and Test Result Pending; Patients with Exposure History (travel; lab; outbreak) with NO “Same Day, Next Day” test result may be treated as per Column 3 in Figure 1 below.

   For identical reasons, the classification of emergent or urgent surgical patients using the same combination of risk factors, symptoms, and pre-operative COVID-19 PCR testing should be applied.

   **NOTE:** Patients that are not able to give a reliable response to the screening questions and that do not have a “Same Day, Next Day” negative test should be treated as Column 3 in Figure 1 below.

   For all patients, the primary surgical team should consider ordering a COVID-19 PCR test where available.

This strategy will be revisited and revised if necessary in consultation with Shared Health Clinical Leadership, Public Health and Infection Prevention and Control if/when the epidemiology of the disease changes or new information becomes available.
### Figure 1: COVID-19 Surgical Pathway

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intubation Team Recommended PPE</strong></td>
<td>All staff in OR suite don: • PPE as per OR protocol pre-COVID-19</td>
<td>All staff in OR suite don: • fit-tested N95 respirator OR half mask respirator • Eye protection • Gown/Gloves • <em>Limit personnel in the OR to anesthesiologist, RN +/- ACA</em> • 15-minute delay before surgical team enters, except for unstable patient.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Surgical Team</strong></td>
<td>All staff in OR suite don: • PPE as per OR protocol pre-COVID-19</td>
<td>All staff in OR suite don: • Regular surgical mask unless unstable patient or upper aerodigestive tract procedure. • Eye protection • Gown/Gloves</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Extubation Team</strong></td>
<td>All staff in OR suite don: • PPE as per OR protocol pre-COVID-19</td>
<td>All staff in OR suite don: • fit-tested N95 respirator OR half mask respirator • Eye protection • Gown/Gloves • <em>Limit personnel in the OR to anesthesiologist, RN +/- ACA</em> • 15-minute delay before transfer to PACU</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 1 Recovery</strong></td>
<td>• In the post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) • No need to delay moving patient to PACU following extubation.</td>
<td>• In the post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) using droplet/contact precautions • Patient may be moved to PACU after 15-minute wait.</td>
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Figure 2: Screening questions for infection with the COVID-19 virus

EXPOSURE* - In the past 14 days have you:
- Returned from travel outside of Manitoba; OR
- Had exposure to a confirmed case of infection with the COVID-19 virus (confirm setting and how individual was notified); OR
- Had exposure in laboratory working directly with biological specimens; AND/OR
- Received care in an outbreak unit

SYMPTOMS - new onset of:
ONE of:
- fever > 38°C or subjective fever/chills
- cough
- sore throat / hoarse voice
- shortness of breath / breathing difficulties
- loss of taste or smell
- vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours

TWO OR MORE of:
- runny nose
- muscle aches
- fatigue
- conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- headache
- skin rash of unknown cause
- nausea or loss of appetite
- poor feeding if an infant

Criteria are intended to supplement clinical judgement, not supersede it.
15. https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/appendix/air.html.

Change log

February 23, 2021
- Updated pathway to include COVID-19 Recovered
- Positioned Surgical Pathway on Page 2 and Screening Questions on Page 3
Sept. 22, 2020:

- Removed specific guidance for Oral and Dental Surgery patients. Guidance for those patients is now the same as for any other patient
- Updated COVID-19 symptoms