



ANZAOMS

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF
ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS

COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidelines for Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

5 April 2020

General

- COVID-19 is spread via contact and droplet routes.
- Asymptomatic patients may be infected with COVID-19 virus.
- Surgical procedures involving the nasal, oral and oropharyngeal mucosal regions are high risk for infection of medical personnel due to aerosolization of the COVID-19 virus.
- These guidelines are based on the best currently available evidence and are subject to change.

- **Airborne protection is needed if an aerosol generating procedure (AGP) is taking place.**
- **Only emergency (life/limb) procedures should be undertaken in COVID-19 positive patients.**

Testing

- 1. Where time and resources permit, preoperative COVID-19 testing, along with other screening tools, can help to risk stratify patients.**
 - Allows more targeted selection of appropriate PPE and conservation of these resources.
 - There is risk of false negatives- this can be reduced with repeat testing over time.
 - Where possible, patients should be directed to self-isolate prior to the procedure.
- 2. Where time or resources do not permit preoperative testing, then patients undergoing high-risk AGPs should be considered at risk of being COVID positive.**



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PPE

Powered, Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR) affords the most protection against transmission

- PAPR is the gold standard PPE for COVID positive patients requiring emergency (life/limb) AGPs.
- This may be a limited resource in some hospitals.
- PAPR may lead to accidental transmission during doffing- **training in its use is essential.**
- PAPR may be impractical when surgical loupes, headlight or a microscope are required.

Members may wish to consider using **PAPR** if:

1. Higher risk procedure where there is significant aerosol or prolonged duration of surgery.
2. Emergency procedure where there is insufficient time for testing.
3. Member is immune compromised/at higher risk of poor outcome from COVID infection.

Note: N95 masks are less effective than PAPR but may be acceptable alternatives

PPE Guidelines

Examination of Low-Risk Patient

Surgical mask

Eye Protection

Impervious Gown

Non-Sterile Gloves

Urgent Aerosol Generating Procedure in Screened Low-Risk Patient

Location: Standard Theatre

Surgical cap and overboots

N95 mask (High risk clinician or prolonged procedure- consider PAPR)

Face Shield or Goggles

Sterile Gown

Sterile Gloves

Emergency Aerosol Generating Procedure in COVID-19 Positive or Unscreened Patient

Location: COVID Designated Theatre (negative pressure room where available)

PAPR (or N95 with Face Shield or Goggles if PAPR unavailable)

Overboots

Sterile Gown

Sterile Gloves x Two Layers