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## CDC Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines

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On behalf of Florida's Surgeon General and the Florida Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care Administration wants to ensure patients and staff are protected by following CDC infection prevention and control guidelines, including use of recommended personal protective equipment (PPE). Please review the information below and evaluate your facilities' practices when admitting and triaging/screening patients with respiratory symptoms as they enter your emergency department. Guidance of note includes:

- Immediately place a face mask on any individual entering the emergency department or triage/screening area of the hospital who presents with a cough, fever, runny nose, etc. This patient should be held in a separate triage area if not already.
  - If worn properly, a facemask helps block respiratory secretions produced by the wearer from contaminating other persons and surfaces.
- All staff working triage desk must wear appropriate PPE (face mask, etc.) Staff must be properly trained on the usage of PPE and the prevention of transmission of infectious agents.
  - Information on how to properly don, use, and doff PPE in a manner to prevent self-contamination is available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/PPE-Sequence.pdf>
  - Conservation guidelines for appropriate use of PPE are available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/healthcare-supply-ppe.html>
  - OSHA has several respiratory training videos available here: [https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/respiratoryprotection/training\\_videos.html](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/respiratoryprotection/training_videos.html)
- Complete routine cleaning and disinfection procedures of spaces where patients with respiratory symptoms are triaged/screened.

- CMS announced several actions to address the spread of COVID-19, including specific guidance to hospitals. These memos from CMS were discussed on the state hospital call last week:  
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-actions-address-spread-coronavirus>

Keep up to date on the recommendations for preventing spread of COVID-19 on CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/caring-for-patients.html>

The Agency encourages you to visit the Department of Health's dedicated COVID-19 webpage at [www.FloridaHealth.gov/COVID-19](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov/COVID-19). This remains the best and most up-to-date resource for information and guidance regarding COVID-19 in Florida.

*The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 44,000 health care facilities and 53 health plans, and publishes health care data and statistics at [www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov). Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA\\_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).*