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Operating Room Instructions for a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Patient

- If possible, postpone non-urgent surgical procedures for a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patient until the patient is determined to be noninfectious or not infected.
- If a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patient requires surgery in an operating room, please contact **Infection Prevention** at x22847 as soon as possible and prior to surgery.

The Operating Room

- The surgery should be scheduled as the **last** surgery that is performed that day.
- Appropriate signage should be posted on the OR doors to minimize staff exposure. The dedicated OR for a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case is **OR 12**.
- The air pressure in the OR should be maintained at **neutral** (NOT negative) pressure relative to the surrounding area. Infection Prevention can coordinate this prior to surgery.
- If the patient requires intubation, intubation should be performed in the operating room under standard procedures, and with only the minimum number of staff necessary to perform the intubation.

Staff PPE

- Only essential staff should be in the OR during the procedure. All OR staff should wear N-95 masks, sterile gowns, sterile gloves, and eye protection. Staff do NOT need to wear surgical masks underneath N-95 masks.
- NOTE:** If performing intubation on an asymptomatic patient, anesthesia should be **REUSING** their surgical mask (not changing masks between patients). Please visit the [COVID-19 subsite](#) on the Pulse for more information about extended mask use.
- After completion of surgery, patients should be transferred immediately to a negative pressure room.

OR Cleaning

- OR cleaning that is needed for a COVID-19 operating room follows the same standard procedure that is performed for a patient in **airborne** isolation.
- Staff should allow the room to remain empty with all doors closed for 2 hours after surgery. The air pressure should remain neutral during this time. Room may be returned to positive pressure after 2 hours, and staff may perform a **terminal** clean wearing normal PPE.