• Decisions made using this algorithm should be within the context of the local epidemiology.
• Suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients can be managed in any OR theatre.
• Designated COVID-19 OR theatres are no longer recommended.
• Modified Respiratory Precautions PPE: fit-tested N95 respirator or well-fitting procedure/surgical mask, eye protection, gown, gloves
• For further information about PPE refer to IPC PPE Table for Surgical Suite during COVID-19.

Patient identified as COVID-19 confirmed, suspected, exposure risk factor present or unable to assess (e.g. trauma)

Pre-op huddle*1

Use COVID-19 OR process

Patient Transport – Modified Respiratory Precautions PPE (use fit-tested N95 respirator or well-fitting procedure/surgical mask)

Intubation – minimal staff in theatre; use Modified Respiratory Precautions PPE with fit-tested N95 respirator

Surgery – use Modified Respiratory Precautions PPE

If patient intubated/ventilated: transport to ICU in clean PPE (if possible)

If patient extubated: minimal staff in theatre; use Modified Respiratory Precautions PPE; recover in OR theatre or in PACU

Transfer to unit by clean team

Post-op debrief *2

If patient extubated:

Post-op debrief *2,4

If patient intubated/ventilated: transport to ICU using Routine Practices

If patient extubated: use Routine Practices; may choose to use Modified Respiratory Precautions PPE

Recover in PACU; transport to unit using continuous masking & eye protection and Routine Practices

*COVID-19 OR algorithm notes

1. Pre-operative huddle: Confirm whether patient is in COVID-19 confirmed, suspected, exposure risk present or unable to assess stream versus non-COVID-19 stream. Discuss disposition of the patient including intra-operative and post-operative PPE requirements.
2. Communication to PACU occurs in pre-operative huddle. Changes must also be communicated clearly during the post-operative debrief.
3. The decision to use Modified Respiratory Precautions PPE when patient screens negative is based on clinical judgement within the context of the local epidemiology.
4. Post-operative debrief: Communicate to PACU if any changes to care plan or post-operative recovery location. If no changes, follow Routine Practices and proceed with standard patient care.