Point-of-care Risk Assessment for Surgery during COVID-19

- 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.

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

Pre-op huddle ¹

Use COVID-19 OR process

Stable patient: Routine Practices with continuous masking for transport

Unstable patient: Contact and Droplet Precautions (N95 respirator if required)

Intubation – minimal staff in theatre; use Contact and Droplet Precautions PPE including N95 respirator

Surgery – use Contact and Droplet Precautions PPE including N95 respirator (may wear surgical mask if low risk of AGMP)

Post-op debrief ¹, ²

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

If patient extubated:
- minimal staff in theatre; use Contact and Droplet Precautions PPE including N95 respirator; recover in OR or in PACU
- Transfer to unit by clean team

Patient screens negative

Pre-op huddle ¹

Use usual OR process ³

Routine Practices with continuing masking for patient transport

Intubation – may choose to use Contact and Droplet Precautions PPE (including N95 respirator)

Surgery – may choose to use Contact and Droplet Precautions PPE (including N95 respirator)

Post-op debrief ¹, ²

If patient extubated:
- use Contact and Droplet Precautions PPE including N95 respirator
- recover in OR or in PACU
- Transfer to unit by clean team
- Recover in PACU; transport to unit using continuous masking and Routine Practices

*COVID-19 OR Algorithm Notes

1. Communication to PACU occurs in pre-operative huddle; changes must be communicated clearly during the post-operative debriefing.
2. Pre-operative huddle: Confirm whether patient is in COVID-19 confirmed, suspected, or unable to assess stream, or non-COVID-19 stream. Discuss disposition of the patient including intra-operative and postoperative PPE requirements.
3. The decision to use Contact and Droplet Precautions PPE including use of a N95 respirator when patient screens negative is based on clinical judgement within the context of the local epidemiology.
4. Post-operative debriefing: communicate to PACU if any change to care plan or post-operative recovery location. If no changes, follow Routine Practices and proceed with standard patient care.
5. Refer to IPC PPE Table for Surgical Suites during COVID-19.