

COVID-19

Guidance for CODE Blue Response During COVID-19 Pandemic **Applies to ALL PATIENTS**

Please refer to StarPort COVID Page (or <https://medstarhealth.org/covid19resources> off network) for the complete and most current guidance as this information is rapidly changing and updated.

These guidelines are to safeguard staff and patients and to properly manage our supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This protocol applies to all in-hospital cardiac arrests and should be adapted to account for local practice.

General Guidelines:

- Prolonged CPR will unlikely result in survival and requires significant use of resources and potential risk to providers.
- Primary teams should have frank discussion regarding Code Status with patients/surrogates on admission.
 - The Palliative Care consult service is available to support primary teams having these conversations with these patients/families.
- When medically indicated, Code Blue Team response should continue on patients with known or suspected COVID-19.
- **All responding personnel MUST practice hand hygiene AND follow current PPE guidelines, even if it delays resuscitation. Entry and exit cannot be rushed.**
- All personnel in the room must wear at least an N-95 respirator in addition to gown, gloves, and eye protection.
- **ESSENTIAL personnel only in the room;** others remain outside unless called.
- Initial resuscitation should focus on compression-only CPR and defibrillation until personnel with bag mask valve with viral filter arrive.
- Take defibrillator into room but **keep code cart outside of room.**
- If available, set up a bedside table or stand at the entrance to the room that can serve as the “Warm” handoff zone to place medications and supplies.
- Prior to initiating airway management including bag mask ventilation (BMV), confirm attachment of viral filter.
- Maintain door partially opened as needed to facilitate communication.
- If more than one patient occupies a room at the time of the code, place N95 mask on the additional patient.

COVID-19

Code Blue Protocol

Inside the room (Hot Zone)

***Each team member must wear appropriate PPE, including N95 or PAPR**

Code Leader	Senior most responding physician from the code team
Code Assist	Nurse/Physician <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check defibrillator • Retrieve and administer meds • Lead code until Code Leader arrives
Compressor #1	Any healthcare provider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply and manage defibrillator and cycle into Chest Compressor • Minimum of 3 cycles per compressor prior to being replaced in room • If the compressor is tired or CPR quality suffers, then an earlier change is warranted
Compressor #2	Any healthcare provider
Respiratory Therapist	BMV should be performed with viral filter between mask and ambu-bag after all team members have PPE including N-95 respirator
Airway Clinician (if necessary)	The most experienced responding clinician <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intubation or LMA placement should occur as soon as safely possible • Stop chest compressions during intubation

Doorway/entrance (Warm Zone)

*** Must wear appropriate PPE, including N95 or PAPR**

Intermediary	Any healthcare provider Stands in doorway, receives meds from table or Code Cart Nurse and hands to "Code Assist"
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Outside the room (Cold Zone)

Recorder/ Isolation Nurse	Nurse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records interventions • Ensure appropriate donning/doffing of PPE including N-95 respirators • Controls access to room
Code Cart Clinician	Pharmacist/Nurse/Physician Manages/prepares meds and hands meds to Intermediary or places on table in warm zone
Standby Compressor	Any healthcare provider Wears PPE while waiting to enter room

The following people should NOT ENTER the room

- Spiritual care, Nursing supervisor (unless needed), other bedside nurses, nurse manager, patient's companions
- Learners (observers, medical students, respiratory care students, etc.) should not participate in events on these patient



COVID-19

- Transporter (unless transportation needed)

General Post-Code Principles

- Disinfect all equipment immediately upon termination of the event
- Doff PPE and ensure all associates perform hand hygiene