



COVID-19

Room Closure Guidance for COVID+ and PUI Post Aerosol Generating Procedures

To ensure the safety of subsequent patients by allowing airborne particles to clear the environment, extended room closure is required after AGPs are performed on COVID+ patients and PUIs. This principle is applicable to all settings including the operating room, inpatient rooms, and ambulatory exam/procedure rooms.

Room Closure Post AGP

Room closure times will be based on CDC guidance for Air Changes per Hour and Time Required for Airborne Contaminant Removal by Efficiency. For AGPs performed on COVID+ patients or PUIs, one-hour room closure is the recommended timeframe for which a room should be closed post procedure. This is based on patient rooms typically requiring a minimum of six (6) air changes per hour; CDC guidance and calculations indicate that rooms meeting 6 air changes per hour require a room clearance time of approximately 1-hour. Rooms not meeting the 6 air changes per hour requirement would require additional time to clear. In ambulatory, it may not be known how many air exchanges are occurring in each room and a safe time of room closure cannot be determined. Therefore, if you cannot determine the number of air exchanges in a space there will be a 2-hour room closure which would be the maximum amount of time to clear airborne particles.

Pressure Relationship	Minimum ACH	Time (min*) required for removal 99% efficiency	MSH
Inpatient Standard patient room/exam room	6	46*	60 minutes
Airborne Isolation Room (AII)	12	23*	30 minutes
Temporary Negative Pressure Inpatient Room	6	12*	60 minutes
OR/Procedure/Delivery Room (Positive or Negative Pressure)	20	18*	30 minutes
Unknown number of air exchanges (ex. ambulatory)	n/a	n/a	120 minutes

*values apply to an empty room with no aerosol-generating source.

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OR/ Procedure/Delivery Room Turnover

Generally, ORs, delivery rooms and procedure rooms should be disinfected as soon as possible. However, after COVID patients, there may be a delay in room turnover and reopening to allow for airborne particles to clear.

Setting	Patient Status	Closure time	Room turnover	Next Patient Entry
OR/Procedure/Delivery Room	COVID+ to COVID +	No closure necessary	Immediately in Full PPE	Immediately after room turnover
OR/Procedure/Delivery Room	PUI to COVID+	No closure necessary	Immediately in Full PPE	Immediately after room turnover
OR/Procedure/Delivery Room	COVID+ to COVID Negative	30 Minutes	After closure time has lapsed	Immediately after room turnover
OR/Procedure/Delivery Room	COVID+ to Unknown	30 Minutes	After closure time has lapsed	Immediately after room turnover
OR/Procedure/Delivery Room	PUI to Unknown	30 Minutes	After closure time has lapsed	Immediately after room turnover
OR/Procedure/Delivery Room	PUI to COVID Negative	30 Minutes	After closure time has lapsed	Immediately after room turnover

Disinfection of Rooms Post AGP

EVS or any personnel disinfecting rooms should refrain from entering the vacated room until sufficient time has elapsed for enough air changes to remove potentially infectious particles. After this time has elapsed, EVS personnel may enter the room and should wear a gown and gloves, facemask and eye protection when performing terminal cleaning.

References

Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control FAQs for COVID-19 Updated June 5th
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-faq.html>