

Interim Guidance for CPR and Emergency Care

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The American Heart Association (AHA) has provided guidance for healthcare providers to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. When caring for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 you should always wear the required PPE; especially during times when aerosol-generating procedures are being carried out. At this point all patients should be considered suspected and on droplet precautions. CPR, endotracheal intubation, and noninvasive ventilation are procedures that expose providers to a greater risk of disease transmission.

Due to this increased risk, additional precautions are required:

- Avoid procedures which generate aerosols; specifically bag mask ventilation, use of high-flow nasal oxygenation and mask CPAP or BiPAP.
- Proceed directly to endotracheal intubation if mechanical ventilation is required.
- All ventilatory equipment should be equipped with HEPA filtration.
- Use required COVID-19 PPE.

Note: Staff should perform all tasks as outlined in the existing ACLS protocols with the exception of using the bag masks. This will be replaced with immediate intubation and oxygenation as required.

When responding to a code:

- Ensure only the necessary people are in the room with the needed equipment and PPE.
- Have a runner on the outside who can get needed items without the responding care providers having to go in and out.
- Shut the door to the room
- Perform all ACLS assessments and interventions
- If ventilation is required, DO NOT bag with a mask, proceed to intubation immediately
 1. Use the plastic drape to cover the patient
 2. Use the video laryngoscope to intubate
 3. Ensure HEPA filter is attached when bagging after intubated
- Once patient is stabilized and transferred to destination (higher level of care or morgue)
 1. Ensure door stays closed
 2. Leave the door closed for 3 hours prior to starting a terminal clean

Source: <https://cpr.heart.org/-/media/cpr-files/resources/covid-19-resources-for-cpr-training/interim-guidance-march-19-2020.pdf?la=en&hash=5A491D18BBB61795442A98A49A50C05173C77EF6>