

Infection Control Discussion Points for Ambulatory Practices

1. What are the 3 Just-In-Time screening questions?

1. In the past 14 days have you had a positive or pending Covid 19 test outside of Partners?
2. In the past 14 days have you spent at least 10 minutes within 6 feet of anyone currently infected with Covid 19?
3. Do you have any of the following, new or progressive, symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Cough SOB
 - Sore Throat
 - Muscle Aches
 - Runny nose/Congestion
 - Loss of smell/taste

2. What would you do if a patient answers “Yes” to any of the 3 screening questions?

- The patient should already be wearing a mask, if not, they need to don a mask immediately.
- Room the patient immediately and keep the door closed.
- If not possible to room immediately, seat at least 6 feet away from other patients, with physical barriers between patients if possible.
- Ensure that patient remains masked while in the clinic.
- Limit the number of clinic staff in contact with patient.
- Notify the appropriate clinic staff

3. What conditions other than Covid 19 would concern you related to exposure of staff and other patients in your practice?

- Measles,
- chicken pox,
- disseminated zoster
- TB

4. What is Respiratory etiquette?

- Covering your cough
- Using and disposing of tissues properly
- Hand hygiene after coughing sneezing and using tissues

5. What supplies must you have available to assist patients with respiratory etiquette?

- Tissues
- Hand sanitizer
- Waste bin

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6. What is the single most important thing you can do to prevent the spread of infection?

Hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand sanitizer and /or soap and water

7. What are the 5 moments for hand Hygiene at the point of care?

1. Before patient contact
2. Before a clean / aseptic procedure
3. After body fluid exposure
4. After patient contact
5. After contact with patient environment

8. Why can't I wear gloves all the time?

Gloves are not a substitute for hand hygiene

The CDC says:

- Germs collect on the gloves when a person wearing them starts touching surfaces (elevator buttons, grocery carts, gas station pumps).
- Germs are spread when the person touches other objects.
- People may think they are protected by the gloves, but they are not.
- You can clean your bare hands with hand sanitizers or soap and water.

This stops the spread of the germs

Gloves should be used for:

Vascular access - phlebotomy/finger stick
Handling blood or body-fluid contaminate items
Invasive procedures
Equipment cleaning

9. Why do the utility room doors need to be closed?

To maintain the correct airflow. Negative pressure for Soiled utility room. Positive pressure for Clean utility room

10. Why are shipping boxes not allowed to be used for storage?

- They are not clean and can be breeding grounds for insects

11. If you have reusable instruments what must you do before they are picked up for reprocessing?

They must be kept wet with a hospital approved pretreatment spray so bioburden doesn't adhere to the surface

12. The Infection Control page on Apollo is the best place to find the most recent guidance and policies

<https://apollo.massgeneral.org/coronavirus/clinicians/infection-control/>