

## **Consensus Recommendations for the Protection of Health Care Personnel and Patients Related to COVID-19**

**Developed By Washington Health Care Forum Work Group – 03/08/20**

In the face of the COVID-19 outbreak, healthcare organizations in Washington state are working together to create a common set of high-level recommendations that individual organizations will use to develop their own individual policies and procedures related to the protection of their employees and patients.

These recommendations are predicated on three key principles:

1. Our highest priority is the health and safety of our employees and our patients. We must maintain a stable and healthy workforce as our healthcare organizations come together to face this public health crisis and continue to serve our patients and communities.
2. These shared recommendations will be based on the best available, most recent scientific evidence. As the science around the COVID-19 virus is rapidly evolving, health care organizations are committed to remaining current and updating these guidelines as needed, based on new findings.
3. These recommendations are designed as a high level resource for individual organizations. Health care services related to the COVID-19 virus will be delivered in many different settings to many different types of patients. Each enterprise will ultimately have to utilize their best clinical judgment in how they apply and adapt these recommendations in the day-to-day delivery of patient care services.

The first two recommendations from the Washington Health Care Forum Work Group address 1) infection prevention and control precautions and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and 2) management of healthcare personnel with potential exposure to COVID-19.

1. Health care organizations will implement policies and procedures consistent with the World Healthcare Organization (WHO) guidelines for infection prevention and control during health care when a novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected, as endorsed by the Washington State Department of Health.
2. Health care organizations will implement policies and procedures based on the CDC's Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), including the consideration to allow asymptomatic healthcare personnel who have had an exposure to a COVID-19 patient to continue to work with daily symptom monitoring in consultation with their employee health services.

The Work Group will continue to update these recommendations as new information becomes available and will be developing future recommendations to further align and coordinate our collective response.

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