

Preventing Coronavirus Transmission in an ASC - Hazard Assessment Information

This hazard assessment example may help organizations determine how to mitigate risks related to COVID-19 and other Emerging Infectious Diseases. This topic was discussed during the May 8, 2020 AHC Webinar, "Preventing Coronavirus Transmission in Ambulatory Surgery Centers." You will find an example spreadsheet attached to assist you in creating your own, individualized hazard assessment.

Hazard (risk) assessment is the foundation for formulating a plan to protect your patients, visitors and staff from infectious agents (e.g., coronavirus, bloodborne pathogens, etc.). The first step is to identify activities that take place in your organization that could result in transmission of infection. Once the hazards and the associated risk are identified, the organization would identify ways to mitigate that risk and then determine which strategies will be

There are multiple formats and tools that can be used to perform a hazard assessment and identify possible mitigation strategies. This form uses the hierarchy of controls approach (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hierarchy/default.html>) to provide a structure to identify the hazards, risks and

Ideally, a multidisciplinary team that includes frontline staff would identify organizational activities which could create a hazard and then determine the risk of exposure or transmission. The team would next identify multiple ways to mitigate the risk as evidenced by the non-clinical example we provided. The final step in the process would be to determine which mitigation strategies are feasible for implementation and then develop policies, procedures, training materials, posters, etc. as needed for successful execution in your organization. This form can also help

How to Complete "Preventing Coronavirus Transmission in an ASC IC Hazard Assessment Form"

Ideally, once your multidisciplinary team identifies organizational activities which could create a hazard and determines the risk of exposure or transmission, they may plot those items using a form such as this to help staff understand how hazards and risks associated with their jobs were identified and the process used to determine and implement risk mitigation strategies. Examples of infection control issues related to preventing coronavirus that could be plotted on a chart might include the wear of PPE for specific tasks, the use of escorts, environmental cleaning, disinfection and leadership's expectations related to aerosol generating procedures.

"Risk Activity": Insert potential risks identified by multidisciplinary team

"Notes": Add comments/notes pertaining to specific potential risk

"Risk Source": Annotate if the source of risk might be staff, visitors, patients, the procedure, equipment or

"Risk Level": Delineate what level the committee determines the activity to be: "very high", "high", "moderate"

"Risk Mitigation Strategies": Annotate those items the organization has determined will help mitigate risks by eliminating, substituting or using engineering or administrative controls to reduce overall risk

