COVID-19 Webinar for Ambulatory Health Care Accreditation

Q&A With The Joint Commission

July 9, 2020
Panel

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Pre-Submitted Questions

What are the most salient points for dental to be aware of during a survey?

https://www.jointcommission.org/covid-19/

Dentistry in the Time of COVID-19

Amanda Nelson, DMD, ABGD, FAGD, FACD
Stephen Flutton, DMD, MS, MPH
Diane Cullen, MSN, MBA, RN, CIC
Herman McKenzie, MBA, CHSP
Joy Afrow, DMD, MHA

June 24, 2020

Pre-Submitted Questions

COVID-19 exposure control in dialysis facilities?


Pre-Submitted Questions

Do you have to wash your bedding in chlorine bleach or can you wash it with a non-chlorine bleach detergent?
Do ambulatory care settings have to have a respiratory fit program?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Are there specifics we need to add to our infection control plan that revolve around COVID-19?

Do health centers need to develop new infection control policies because of COVID-19 or update the existing ones including COVID-19 protocols?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How do you anticipate policies changing with respect to infection control (i.e. hand hygiene)?
Personal Protective Equipment: Optimization Strategies

PPE Burn Rate Calculator

[Image: PPE Burn Rate Calculator]

This spreadsheet can help healthcare facilities plan and optimize the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for response to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). [Get the Instructions]


Pre-Submitted Questions

Please discuss the ability to decontaminate an N95 respirator following an aerosol generating procedure. If the health care worker is covering the N95 with a plastic face shield.

(Example: specifically, in dentistry using ultra sonics)
Pre-Submitted Questions

Please address limited reuse and extended use of PPE during the pandemic.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Are there any recommendations for best practices for extended and reuse of disposable isolation gowns? It has been very difficult to source gowns and we have a very limited quantity.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Due to having limited amount of PPE available, particularly gowns, can the same gown be used when spraying instruments with the foam cleaner and transporting the container to the "dirty room" to start the process of manually cleaning the instrument?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Please clarify the use of PPE for care of COVID-19 and non COVID-19 patients with and without aerosol generating procedures.
<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Any level</td>
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<td>Minimal or Limited</td>
<td>Mask or cloth covering (source control) *</td>
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* Additional PPE as required by Standard and Transmission based Precautions
Pre-Submitted Questions

Is there a time frame for when patients will no longer be required to wear masks?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Please explain The Joint Commission standards on COVID-19 testing for patients prior to surgery and if it is recommended for all or only those high risk or with concerns of having the virus.
Position Statement

Pre-Submitted Questions

Is it recommended to test for COVID-19 on all procedures prior to the day of service? Are you recommending N95 for all EGD (endoscopy) procedures in ambulatory surgery centers? If N95 masks are used, is it required to fit test first? (Cannot get fit test kit in this state of emergency)?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Should centers offer employee testing on a regular basis?

Occasionally we get homeless or displaced individuals who come as walk-ins, would you agree that as a best practice measure that we screen for COVID-19 as a regular part of initial assessment?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What is the wait time between potential patients with COVID-19 to turn the room around for the next patient? Is it 30 min, 60 min? Also would it be the same for dental and a single radiology room?
Room Turnover

- Considerations
  - Size of room?
  - Number of air exchanges/hour?
  - Length of time patient was in room?
  - Patient coughing/sneezing?
  - Patient wearing face covering?
  - Aerosol generating procedure?
  - PPE worn?

The number of air changes per hour (ACH) and time and efficiency.

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https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/appendix/air.html#tableb1
Pre-Submitted Questions

For fire safety, is it mandatory to have sprinkler’s in an ambulatory surgery center?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will existing centers who were constructed prior to 2016 be cited for having an essential electrical system type 3 system?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Do waivers apply to ambulatory health care centers, directed towards emergency and environment of care drill inspection requirements? Do we need to conduct the quarterly drills?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Joint Commission requires positive air flow in operating rooms. COVID-19 recommendations say we should have negative airflow to reduce possible viral load being pushed out into the facility. Any recommendations on this subject?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Do organizations need a written protocol to be found in each patient’s electronic health record related to COVID-19 diagnostic testing?

If an ambulatory surgery center is performing COVID-19 testing preoperatively, and using a standing physician’s order for this, is a written policy required for this standing order?
Pre-Submitted Questions

When will waivers expire?
Looking for more information on CMS 1135 Waivers?

Accredited organizations can learn more by visiting Resources and Tools > Tools > Learn More in their Joint Commission Connect® extranet site.
The Joint Commission Return to Survey Activity

- In addition to conducting accreditation surveys, we have been advocating for the safety and well-being of healthcare workers at the highest levels of policy making.

- We want to assure you that we want to work together to reduce your risk and ours during the on-site survey process.
Your Questions

You have had a number of questions about our return to survey:

- How or when will we get a survey?
- What will that survey process look like, any differences?
- What type of instructions have you provided your surveyors?
- What will the surveyors focus on?
When and how will survey activity resume?

- Survey activity has started in low risk areas — includes all programs
- **Low risk criteria**
  - Number of COVID-19 cases are lower and less impact to organizations
  - The # of cases/thousand population and new cases within the county
  - Determination that our staff can travel to that area safely and find appropriate accommodations.
- In addition, your Account Executive will contact you to determine your readiness.
- We are aware that surveys are past their due dates, we will conduct those surveys when we are able.
- Prioritized initials and past due organizations. We will also be looking for organizations due in the next few months that meet the low risk criteria and are currently ready for survey.
What instructions have been provided to surveyors?

- Do not travel if you are sick
- Do not travel if you have been in close contact with known or suspected COVID-19 patients
- When traveling you are required to wear a mask/face covering
- **You are required to wear a mask on survey and follow the organization’s guidelines. The organization will provide the PPE to the surveyor as required by their policy.**
- Practice physical distancing
- Practice good hand hygiene
- Follow CDC guidelines
What has changed about the survey process?

The survey process and its components will remain the same, however here are some guidelines for the survey/review:

- Limit the number of individuals in group sessions
- Use audio or video conferencing to safely expand the number of attendees for sessions
- Make the use of masks a routine practice
- Maximize the use of technology to eliminate the number of people needed to sit directly next to an individual for an extended period of time. For example, screen sharing or projecting medical records.
Survey/Review Process - Continued

- We will NOT enter an at risk or confirmed COVID-19 room. We will not visit a unit with any confirmed COVID-19 patients.
- Limited physical review of high risk and aerosol generating procedures
- Consider using a simulation and/or distant review of certain activities/procedures
- Practice social/physical distancing during the survey
- Follow “PPE” and risk reduction strategies as established by the CDC
- Limit attendance at group sessions (e.g., opening, briefings, system tracers)
- Limit observers or scribes to avoid additional exposure during the survey
Additional Information

- We would ask that you do not provide additional avoid dates due to the difficulty in scheduling surveys – avoid dates already submitted will be honored to the extent we can.

- **Virtual surveys** – early surveys and initial surveys have occurred in some programs.

- Virtual event is a combination of:
  - Secure Zoom technology for the survey and facility review.
  - Use of a secure SharePoint site for document upload to review presurvey.
  - Initial surveys conducted virtually will have a follow-up survey on-site.
  - Organization is contacted to verify ability and willingness to participate.
COVID-19 Resources

What Your Organization Needs to Know About the Coronavirus

Trusted Guidance. Trusted Resources.

View resources
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<th>Link</th>
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<td>COVID-19 FAQs and Resource Finder</td>
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Thank You

We support your efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and hope to provide helpful resources.
Resources

- COVID Resources
  - https://www.jointcommission.org/covid-19/

- Standards Interpretation
  - https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/standard-faqs/