Coronavirus updates

Prerecorded webinar: Preventing COVID-19 transmission in ambulatory health care

A prerecorded webinar is now available on The Joint Commission’s website to aid ambulatory health care staff as they continue to treat patients with COVID-19.

The webinar — Preventing COVID-19 Transmission in Ambulatory Health Care Centers — provides an overview of the spectrum of clinical presentations of coronavirus and gives specific suggestions for decreasing the risk of transmission in ambulatory health care settings.

The webinar includes presentations from Joint Commission experts:
- Sylvia Garcia-Houchins, MBA, RN, CIC, director of infection prevention and control, Division of Healthcare Improvement
- Darla VanPutten-Adams, MD, surveyor, Ambulatory Health Care
- Elizabeth Even, MSN, RN, associate director, Standards Interpretation Group

For quick reference, here are the time codes for topics discussed during the webinar:
- COVID-19 Symptoms and Spread (01:34)
- How Ambulatory Care Centers Can Slow the Spread (12:32)
- Managing Supplies During a Pandemic (34:25)
- Respiratory Protection (38:40)
- Other Personal Protective Equipment (43:33)
- Resources (46:55)

View webinar replay webpage. (Contact: Dawn Glossa, dglossa@jointcommission.org)

Resources

Up in the blogosphere with The Joint Commission
- On Infection Prevention & Control — Decontaminating & Disinfecting Single Use Respirators: Increasingly, we are getting questions like, “Can single use respirators be decontaminated?” writes Robert Campbell, PharmD, director, clinical standards interpretation for hospital/ambulatory programs.
- At Home with The Joint Commission — Availability of Non-Invasive Ventilators in Home Care: We hear a lot from organizations providing non-invasive ventilators to rent for home care patients. Many are looking for guidelines as to how many to have on hand. A frequent question: Is there a number of back-up ventilators we should have available? The Joint Commission does not mandate and/or prescribe how many non-invasive ventilators (NIVs) organizations should have as back-up for their NIV patients, writes Robert Campbell, PharmD, director, clinical standards interpretation for hospital/ambulatory programs.
- Improvement Insights — Reusable Elastomeric Respirators and Health Care Surges: The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine recommends that reusable elastomeric respirators be considered for routine and surge use in health care respiratory protection programs (RPPs), provided cleaning and disinfection protocols are specified. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends inclusion of reusable elastomeric respirators as one strategy to preserve
N95 respirators (N95s) during periods of shortage in health care settings, writes Stella Hines, MD, MSPH, is assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore.

- **Ambulatory Buzz — Three Ways Leaders Can Support Frontline Staff During a Pandemic**: In addition to my role as a Joint Commission associate director of standards interpretation focused on ambulatory care, I still work as an emergency department nurse at a large, academic Level-One trauma center and have been picking up additional shifts at my hospital during this COVID-19 pandemic. I’ve spent 13 of my 15 years as a nurse in the emergency department. That said, I’ve never experienced anything like the COVID-19 pandemic and I hope I never will again, writes Liz Even, MSN, RN, CEN, associate director, Clinical Standards Interpretation Group.

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