Ambulance Transfer

When a suspect case of **2019-nCoV- Acute Respiratory Disease** patient has to be transported, the following precautions should be taken by ambulance personnel accompanying the patient:

**On arrival to the healthcare facility from where the patient is to be transferred**

A. Decontaminate hands (alcohol gel/rub) (Fig 1, 2)

B. Don Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): (Fig 3)

   A patient requiring Aerosol Generating Precaution: N95 mask with respirator, gloves, long sleeved fluid repellent gown and goggles (Annexure donning PPE)

C. Inform the hospital of the admission/transfer of a potentially infectious person

**Before leaving the house/healthcare facility**

- Request patient to wear a surgical mask (if tolerated) and advise on Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette
- A patient with suspected or confirmed **2019-nCoV- Acute Respiratory Disease** should not travel with other patients

**In ambulance**

- Remove gloves, decontaminate hands and put on new gloves before touching the patient and before a clean or aseptic procedure, if required. Wearing gloves does not replace hand hygiene.
- Use single use or single patient use medical equipment where possible
- Use disposable linen if available
Arrival to the referral hospital

- Before the patient leaves the ambulance ensure arrangements are in place for receipt of the patient
- Transfer patient to the care of hospital staff
- After transfer of patient remove PPE (Fig 4)
- Perform hand hygiene

Before ambulance is used again

- **Cleaning and disinfecting** (PPE as outlined above should be worn while cleaning)
  
  Surfaces (stretcher, chair, door handles etc) should be cleaned with a freshly prepared 1% hypochlorite solution or equivalent

- **Laundry**
  
  Place reusable blankets in a bag, then put into a laundry bag and send for laundering clearly labelling it so that person in the laundry wears appropriate PPE before handling or autoclaves it before opening.

- **Medical equipment**
  
  Follow manufacturer’s instructions for cleaning/disinfecting reusable equipment (see guidelines)

- **Management of waste**
  
  All masks and any waste contaminated with blood or body fluid (including respiratory secretions) should be disposed of as infectious waste in yellow bag

- **Management of sharps** – per Standard Precautions
- **Management of spillages of blood and body fluids** – per Standard Precautions

In the ambulance, if the driver’s chamber is not separate, driver should also use PPE.
Fig 1 Hand Hygiene: Moments of Hand Hygiene

1. Before touching a patient
2. Before clean/aseptic procedure
3. After body fluid exposure risk
4. After touching a patient
5. After touching patient surroundings
Steps 3-9 are same while using hand rub
Fig 3 Donning procedures should be diligently & carefully followed as given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEQUENCE FOR PUTTING ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The type of PPE used will vary based on the level of precautions required, such as standard and contact, droplet or aerosol infection isolation precautions. The procedure for putting on and removing PPE should be tailored to the specific type of PPE.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **GOWN**
   - Fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to end of wrists, and wrap around the back
   - Fasten in back of neck and waist

2. **MASK OR RESPIRATOR**
   - Secure ties or elastic bands at middle of head and neck
   - Fit flexible band to nose bridge
   - Fit snug to face and below chin
   - Fit-check respirator

3. **GOGGLES OR FACE SHIELD**
   - Place over face and eyes and adjust to fit

4. **GLOVES**
   - Extend to cover wrist of isolation gown

**USE SAFE WORK PRACTICES TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND LIMIT THE SPREAD OF CONTAMINATION**

- Keep hands away from face
- Limit surfaces touched
- Change gloves when torn or heavily contaminated
- Perform Hand Hygiene
Fig 4: Doffing procedures should be diligently & carefully followed as given below:

**PERFORM HAND HYGIENE BETWEEN STEPS IF HANDS BECOME CONTAMINATED AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER REMOVING ALL PPE**

**References**: Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi-110001