

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

Developed by Washington Healthcare Forum Work Group – 03/08/20

In the face of the COVID-19 outbreak, health care 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 health care 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:

infection prevention and control precautions and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and management of health care personnel with potential exposure to COVID-19.

1. Health care organizations will implement policies and procedures consistent with the World Health 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 health care 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 Washington Healthcare Forum 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.

About the Washington Healthcare Forum:

Founded in 1999, the Washington Healthcare Forum is a coalition of physicians, hospitals, health plans and state associations that have joined to improve the local health care system. Forum members are listed below:

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OneHealthPort manages the affairs of the Forum. Rick Rubin, OneHealthPort CEO, serves as the Executive Director of the Forum. His contact info is: rickr@onehealthport .com, 206-624-3128 ext. 111.