

Aerosol Generating Procedures

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v4.0

Definition

Aerosol-generating procedures (AGP) are procedures that stimulate coughing and promote the generation of aerosols. Additional infection prevention and control precautions are required for some AGP where an increased risk of infection has been identified.

Infection Prevention and Control for AGP requiring additional precautions

- Place patient in a well ventilated single room (e.g. mechanical ventilated with 6-12 air changes per hour or naturally ventilated room).⁽¹⁾
- To avoid unnecessary exposures, only those healthcare workers or caregivers needed to perform the procedure should be present in the room at the time the AGP is being carried out.
- In the healthcare setting the following PPE should be worn by all staff during the procedure and by those remaining in or entering the patient's room within one hour of cessation of the procedure:
 - a. Long sleeved gowns
 - b. FFP2 or FFP3 respirator masks
 - c. Eye protection (e.g. goggles)
 - d. Gloves (sterile gloves maybe required for some procedures)

Refer to [donning and removal of PPE document](#)

AGP which require additional precautions

Based on current recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO), the following AGPs require additional precautions:²

- Intubation
- Manual ventilation
- Non-invasive ventilation (e.g., BiPAP, BPAP)
- Tracheostomy insertion

Note: Specific infection prevention and control guidance for all bronchoscopy and sputum induction procedures as outlined in the [Guidelines on the Prevention and Control of Tuberculosis in Ireland 2010](#) should be followed.

Nebulisation is no longer considered an AGP but patients receiving nebulisation should be placed in a single room.

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Chest physiotherapy is not considered an AGP but a surgical mask should be worn by the patient if tolerated and HCWs should wear PPE as recommended for routine care during the procedure.

1: WHO. Natural ventilation for Infection Control in Healthcare Settings
http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/natural_ventilation/en/index.htm
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2: WHO. Infection Prevention and Control during Healthcare for Probable or Confirmed Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) Infection. 2013.
http://www.who.int/entity/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/IPCnCoVguidance_06May13.pdf Assessed 10-05-2013