

Trained Observers for Healthcare Personnel Caring for Patients with and Under Investigation for COVID-19

A **Trained Observer** is a clinician whose primary responsibility is to guide healthcare personnel (HCP) as they don and doff personal protective equipment (PPE) while caring for patients with and under investigation for COVID-19. When acting as a Trained Observer, also known as a **gatekeeper**, you will not be delivering care directly to patients. Instead, Trained Observers will focus on ensuring the safety of HCP by monitoring, protecting, and guiding HCP through the protocols of donning and doffing PPE.

An effective Trained Observer is:

- Vigilant in spotting defects in equipment;
- Proactive in identifying upcoming risks;
- Informative, supportive and well-paced in issuing instructions or advice;
- Always practices hand hygiene immediately after providing assistance.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Trained Observer

- A. Serves as the designated observer for HCP providing care for patients with and under investigation for COVID-19.
- B. Completes facility required PPE donning and doffing training.
 - Viewing NETEC COVID PPE training video and provides return demonstration of PPE and hand hygiene meeting approval of another Trained Observer.
- C. Monitors compliance with PPE protocols by providing immediate guidance, corrections, and assistance during doffing and doffing.
- D. Prompts HCP to log entry into patient's room and documents all possible breaches.
- E. Enforces visitation guidelines and escalates issues to Patient Care Coordinator (PCC) or Charge Nurse (CN) regarding unauthorized room entry by personnel.
- F. Must be present at all times to observe HCP donning/doffing PPE and activities within patient's room to ensure breaches in protocols do not occur. In the event the Trained Observer must leave the area, he/she will obtain coverage of the area by another Trained Observer.
- G. Serves as an assistant to the HCP by providing supplies as needed.
- H. Coordinates restocking of sanitation supplies as needed.
- I. Performs routine disinfection of high-touch surfaces (e.g. door handles, work stations) and maintains a clutter-free environment.

Please note: the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve and these recommendations are based on data currently available. Recommendations are subject to change based on future clinical needs and evidence.

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