Infection Prevention Guidance for the Care of Patient with COVID-19 (March 25, 2020)

Below is a guidance on how to care for patient at SCCA that have been confirmed or suspected COVID-19

Scheduling of Appointments

- Cancel or reschedule any non-urgent appointments.
- Consider telemedicine options when possible.
- If the patient needs to come into the clinic for urgent appointments:
  - Schedule their appointment at the end of the day or during the clinic’s least busy time frame
  - Schedule all appointments to occur in the same room (i.e. blood draw, provider appt should occur in the same location)
  - If radiology imaging is required, it must be scheduled as the last appointment of the day and the department should be notified

Prior to Patient Arrival

- Patients should be instructed on the steps to minimize exposure when they arrive to the clinic. These instructions include:
  - Instructions on how to arrive at the clinic, including which entrance to use (for SLU, prefer to use the main entrance to avoid the uses of the garage elevator).
  - Wear a mask at all times in the clinic. If possible, wear a mask from home before entering the clinic. If you do not have any mask available at home, please cover your mouth and nose with a bandana or scarf until we can provide one for you. Mask are available at the front entrances by our screeners, please ask of one when you arrive.
  - Caregiver should be limited to one and should wear a mask as well.
  - Before entering the clinic, call your care team when you arrive so you can be roomed right away
  - Please try to maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet from other patients and staff members outside of an exam room.
  - Please contact your nurse for questions you may have about how long you will need to follow these instructions when you come to the clinic.

Day of the Appointment

- Patients should wear a mask at all times in the clinic, even in an exam room. Patients should only remove mask if required for patient care activities (i.e. an oral exam).
- Patient should be roomed as soon as possible and placed in private room with the door closed.
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- Healthcare personnel should adhere to Standard, Contact, and Droplet Precautions, including the use of eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield) when caring for patients with COVID-19 infection. These precautions include the use of the following PPE:
  - Facemask (i.e. surgical mask)
  - Eye protection (i.e. goggles, disposable face shield, or mask with face shield attached)
  - Gown
  - Gloves

- Avoid performing any aerosol-generating procedures
  - Aerosol generating procedures include bronchoscopy, endotracheal intubation, non-invasive positive pressure ventilation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, suctioning, non-invasive positive pressure ventilation, and nebulizer therapy
  - If an aerosol-generating procedure is necessary it must be performed in an AIIR, while following appropriate infection prevention and control (IPC) practices, including use of appropriate PPE: gown, gloves, NIOSH-approved and fit-tested N95 respirator or greater, and eye protection.

- Use dedicated or disposable noncritical patient-care equipment (e.g., blood pressure cuffs), when possible. If equipment will be used for more than one patient, clean and disinfect such equipment according to manufacturer’s instructions before use on another patient.

- After the patient leaves clean the room, including all high touch surface areas with disinfectant wipes.
  - Sani-Cloth AF3, Super Sani-Cloth, Corox Bleach Wipes, and Clorox Hydrogen Peroxide Wipes are all effective at killing COVID-19