

EMS Guideline for Care of Patients with Known/Suspected Highly Infectious Airborne Respiratory Illness

Clinical concern for highly infectious airborne illness requiring EMS Treatment and Transport

updated on
3/30/2022

Don Enhanced PPE**
Place surgical mask on patient (may use NC under mask)

Stabilizing Measures

1. Perform all basic and advanced airway procedure in enhanced PPE **
 - Administer oxygen as indicated, up to via nonrebreather at 15 LPM.
 - Place surgical mask over nasal cannula or oxygen mask.
2. Obtain IV/IO access as indicated
3. Treat Shock as indicated, refer to [Shock](#) guideline
4. Minimize aerosolization*
5. When available, insert viral filter between BVM/SGA/ETT and bag/ventilator

1. Transport to the closest appropriate receiving facility
2. Provide receiving facility notification:
 - “Possible Highly Infectious Airborne Respiratory Illness” and Primary Symptoms
 - If any aerosolizing measures (SVN, CPAP, BVM, CPR) are in use.

***Medications:**

- If nebulizer is necessary for concurrent wheezing, this should be administered in open air space and discontinued prior to entering any enclosed space, including hospital hallways.
- Consider using patient's own MDI, 1-2 puffs every 5 minutes.

***Noninvasive Positive Pressure Ventilation (NIPPV):**

- Use CPAP/BIPAP when necessary and discontinue prior to entry into a public space, including hospital hallways. If the patient has impending respiratory failure and cannot be safely transitioned to a nonrebreather, coordinate with receiving facility prior to entering. If viral filter is available, place between the mask and oxygen delivery port.

***Advanced Airway Management:**

- In patients with suspected/known highly infectious airborne respiratory illness, supraglottic airway is preferred to endotracheal intubation.

****Enhanced PPE:** prioritize use of masks blocking aerosolized particles (N95, P100, etc.) when any medication or procedure is being provided that generates aerosolized particles (nebulizers, PPV, airway suction, etc.) and when available wear gown, gloves and eye protection.