

COVID COLD ZONES

Solid Organ Transplant Patient Population

Purpose: COVID “Cold” zones are being established for the housing of transplant patients (pre- and post-transplant) on a unit free of COVID positive or PUI patients in an effort to maximize their safety.

Patient Protocols:

When an organ is identified for one of our waitlisted patients who is not already hospitalized on a COVID free unit, they will need to present to the ED for rapid COVID testing. They will wait in the ED until results are obtained before then moving to the COVID free unit to complete prep for surgery.

Pre- and post-transplant patients requiring direct admission from home will be admitted to the “sister unit” until COVID testing obtained. Patients will then be moved to the appropriate unit based on COVID result. **Exception: If the pre or post-transplant patient is being admitted specifically for COVID concerns, they will follow the current COVID protocol of a PUI patient in need of an ICU or nursing unit.**

All intestinal transplant patients will be admitted to G101 (and will need to be tested prior if they are a new admission). If concern for COVID, they follow the same exception protocol above.

Hospital transfers: COVID testing will be requested from outside hospital if not already completed. With positive results, patients will be admitted to the appropriate COVID unit/floor. All hospital transfers with a negative test will be required to be admitted to the “sister unit”, have a COVID test before being admitted to the COVID Cold unit (patient will be treated like a PUI and put in isolation until test result received).

COVID negative patients traveling off the unit to a test/procedure, must wear a surgical mask at all times. The caregivers accepting these patients for their test/procedure must wear their cloth mask at all times while interacting with the patient.

Unit Protocols:

All caregivers on these units and those rounding on these units will be required to wear a cloth mask (unless otherwise directed by Occupational Health) at all times on the unit. **Cloth masks enhance cough etiquette** and may prevent the user from touching their face. Signs will be placed at the entrance to the units. Cloth masks will be made available at the entrance of each unit.

All patients admitted to these units will be COVID negative (per COVID testing or kept in COVID free zones).

No visitors will be permitted on these units. If there is a compassionate exception needed, patient will need to be moved to the “sister unit”.

Off service patients will not be admitted to any of the transplant COVID free units (exception is G54 depending on bed needs) .

Units will house pre- and post- transplant patients (inhouse evaluations, those waiting transplant).

Oncology/BMT: New BMT patients are tested in the outpatient setting for COVID prior to transplant admission. Discussions are in process to consider G110 a COVID-free zone with G111 as the sister unit. Further alignment may occur as information is shared between teams.

Pediatric Transplant: Further work being done with the pediatric patient population. Follow-up meetings planned.

COVID COLD UNITS:

Below is a chart of the COVID COLD UNITS with their adjacent “sister unit” in the next column. Bed management and throughput will assign patients to the “sister unit” until COVID testing is completed. If the patient was tested in our ED and results are known negative, the patient can be admitted to the COVID COLD unit.

| COVID COLD ICUs: | Sister Unit | COVID COLD Nursing Units: | Sister Unit |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| G 54 | G53 | G101 | G100 |
| J32 | J31 | J82 | J 72 (other HVI floor, non-COVID or PUI) |
| J55/J54 | Available CVICU bed (non COVID) | | |

**Adjustments to bed assignments to “sister units” may be needed based on patient’s needs

*****Continue proactive COVID screening when organ identified (test > 72 hours) until fully operational.**