

## High Flow Oxygen via Nasal Cannula

### April 24, 2020

<p><b>What's New?</b></p>	<p>BCCDC has published guidance for the use of high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) for COVID-19 patients and due to limited safety data recommends that it be considered an Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure (AGMP).</p> <p>Therefore, an N95 mask/respirator should be used for HFNC in addition to other PPE items.</p> <p>ePOPS documents referencing AGMPs have been updated to reflect this update.</p>
<p><b>Why?</b></p>	<p>There is limited data about whether HFNC actually generates aerosols, but there is a theoretical concern that it might; therefore in an abundance of caution, it should be considered aerosolizing until further notice. HFNC is used frequently in pediatrics in order to prevent intubation.</p>
<p><b>How does this affect my practice?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For suspect or confirmed COVID patients requiring HFNC treatment, healthcare providers use an N95 mask in addition to Droplet &amp; Contact Precautions PPE. If available, use an airborne isolation room for patients on HFNC.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do I find out more?</b></p>	<p>Review the <a href="#">BCCDC High-Flow Oxygen During the COVID-19 Pandemic</a> available on ePOPS.</p>
<p><b>Who do I contact for further information?</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact your unit/program leaders, educators, practice leaders.</li> <li>2. Page the Infection Control Practitioner at:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday to Friday 0800-1600 : Local 2161 or pager 41-02411 or IPACS@cw.bc.ca</li> <li>• After Hours: page the Infection Control Officer through paging 2161</li> </ul> </li> </ol>