

COVID-19

Provincial Guidance on Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs) and Transesophageal Echocardiography (TEE)

Infection Prevention and Control, in consultation with the provincial leads for echocardiography, have reviewed the available information from across Canada and abroad and have deemed echocardiography to be of uncertain risk as AGMPs.

The following recommendations are made for performing these procedures:

1. N95 respirators are **only required** in the event that a patient requiring TEE is speculated of having infection with a pathogen that is transmitted by the airborne route (e.g. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*). For clarity, COVID-19 is not considered an airborne infection.
2. If TEE is being performed on a person with infection with an airborne pathogen, the procedure will need to be performed under negative pressure air flow wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g. N95 respirator)
 - For those practitioners who cannot wear N95 respirators, it is advised that they **do not** perform procedures on persons suspected or confirmed of having infections with pathogens transmitted by the airborne route
3. For patients with **confirmed or suspected*** COVID-19 infection, it is recommended that all staff within 6 feet/2 meters of the TEE procedure, use enhanced droplet precautions (N95 respirator, gown, gloves, eye/face protection) until such time that further information about the risks associated with TEE is available.
 - N95 respirator use is **NOT** recommended for patients that are not suspected of having infection with COVID-19.
4. For persons on whom TEE will be performed but who are not deemed to be at risk of any respiratory infection (asymptomatic, no known sick contact, no travel out of Manitoba), then the TEE may be performed in the conventional echocardiography suite with staff using droplet contact precautions (procedure mask, face/eye protection, gloves and gown).

*In this instance, a “**suspect**” is defined as a person who has been tested and the result is pending OR a person who needs to be tested and will be tested for clinical reasons regardless of TEE