



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Ontario Paramedics

FROM: Ontario Base Hospital Group (OBHG)

DATE: February 9, 2023

RE: **Considerations for Paramedics Managing Patients during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

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Over the last two years, the OBHG COVID-19 considerations documents provided adaptability to the ALS PCS that enabled paramedics to continue to provide high quality care as we worked to manage the risk of exposure. While the global health crisis continues, exposure risk in the prehospital setting can now be managed with existing tools and guidance. Therefore, **OBHG is hereby ending the previously issued COVID considerations and is returning to the regular application of the ALS PCS.**

Paramedics should continue to follow local guidance on respiratory disease outbreaks.

We encourage consultation when the call complexity is increased for both patient presentation and the context of the treatment. Paramedics may always initiate a patch for consultation with a Base Hospital Physician.

Reminder of SARS-CoV-2 exposure risks and its management:

Patients may generate their own aerosols through normal respiration. These aerosols increase when coughing. Exposure to aerosol increases the risk of exposure to infectious disease pathogens including the virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2).

Per the Ontario Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee, Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMP) include:

- ✓ Endotracheal intubation or SGA insertion including during cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- ✓ Manual ventilation using the BVM (except following ETT placement with viral filter in place).
- ✓ CPAP.
- ✓ Open system airway suctioning (excluding the oral cavity).
- ✓ Nebulized medication administration.

This memo supersedes the October 19, 2021 OBHG Memo “Considerations for Paramedics Managing Patients during the COVID-19 Pandemic.”