

COVID-19 PPE Rapid Update



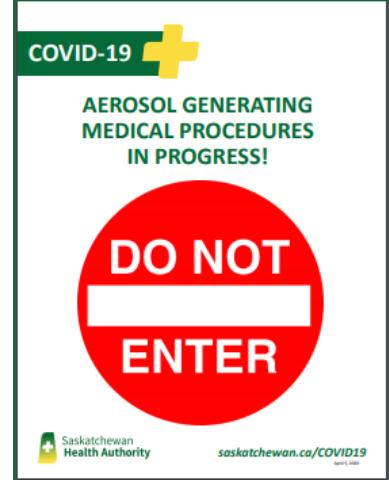
“Settle Time” after an Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure (AGMP)

What is “Settle Time”?

The “settle time” is the amount of time needed to remove infectious airborne organisms from room air (e.g., TB, chicken pox) or infectious aerosols that may be created during an AGMP. This begins when the source of infectious aerosols ends. Examples of when the “settle time” starts include:

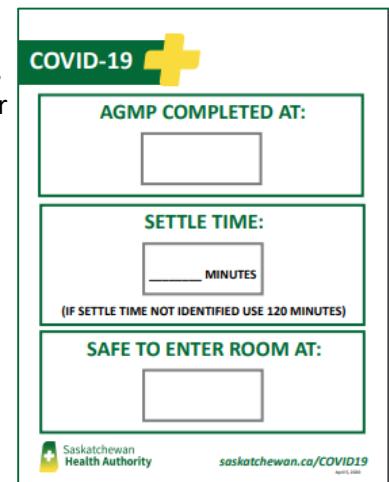
- When a patient on continuous Airborne Precautions is moved out of the room.
- Following an AGMP when a pathogen or virus (e.g., COVID-19) has the potential to be aerosolized during the procedure

The “settle time” is used to guide if a N95 respirator needs to be worn while in the room or how long the room must sit before Housekeeping can begin cleaning. **The “settle time” should never impact patient care needs** and should not delay essential patient or staff movement in and out of the room.



How is the room “settle time” determined?

- To determine a specific “settle time” for a specific room, the number of Air Changes per Hour (ACH) must be evaluated as each room can be different (size, temperature, humidity, ventilation capacity, etc.). The higher the ACH, the less time is required for settle time.
- If the number of ACH for the patient room is known, a specific “settle time” can be calculated using this [table](#) (page 2) and posted (e.g., if the room has 12 ACH, the “settle time” is 35 minutes). Then staff will know how long they must wear an N95 respirator or how long before Housekeeping can enter the room to clean.
 - *Please note:* the number of ACH does not reflect the direction of air flow (i.e., negative pressure vs positive pressure).
- If the number of ACH is unknown, the “settle time” for a patient room has been determined to be 2 hours or 120 minutes.



IMPORTANT: Conditions that must be in place when using a specified “settle time”?

- Patient room door should remain completely closed, with the exception of essential patient/staff movement.
- Posters to be displayed on the door can be found on [Saskatchewan.ca/covid19-providers](http://saskatchewan.ca/covid19-providers).

NOTE: A specified “settle time” cannot be used if there is a power outage

PLEASE BE ADVISED, specified “settle time” information has been provided to your unit due to extraordinary circumstances and is only valid during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your unit will be notified of changes or when normal time procedures must be resumed.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Infection Control Practitioner.



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