Infection Control from the Emergency Department to the ICU

Get Vaccinated
All COVID-19 vaccines under FDA emergency use authorization in the United States have demonstrated high effectiveness for preventing death, serious illness, and hospitalization.

Create Space
Consider separate waiting rooms and care areas for patients with signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

Workplace Risk
The highest workplace risk for healthcare workers is during the “in-betweens” (eg, breakrooms, workrooms, carpooling).

Community Risk
The highest overall risk for infection is in the community.

Hierarchy of Controls
- **Elimination**: Physically remove the hazard
- **Substitution**: Replace the hazard
- **Engineering Controls**: Isolate people from the hazard
- **Administrative Controls**: Change the way people work
- **PPE**: Protect the worker with Personal Protective Equipment

Mask Patients
Mask all patients who can tolerate it as a measure of source control.

PPE Fatigue
Be wary of personal protective equipment (PPE) fatigue. Wear the recommended PPE as appropriate for every patient.

Control Aerosols
Be cautious when performing aerosol-producing procedures. Ensure that proper infection prevention measures are in place.

Routine Events
Data suggest that routine events (eg, coughing) carry a higher risk of spreading infection than aerosol-generating hospital procedures.

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