

Nuclear Medicine during COVID-19

MINIMIZE RISK TO STAFF, PATIENTS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS



STAFF

- Safe distancing during verbal communications, no handshakes
- Training in hand hygiene and correct application of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Wear surgical masks and other appropriate PPE according to local policies, in particular for procedures involving aerosol generation
- Staggered mealtimes and separated eating locations
- Ensure clear and consistent communications towards staff
- Monitor staff well-being

PATIENTS

- Safe distancing
- Provide surgical masks
- Screening questionnaire/triage for possible COVID-19 symptoms
- No accompanying persons if physical condition allows
- Display posters on hand hygiene and how to self-report suspect symptoms

FACILITIES

- Avoid crowding in waiting areas
- Separate confirmed COVID-19 positive patients
- Provide hand sanitizer to patients
- Implement procedures for cleaning gantry, bed, ECG-leads, computers, mouse, keyboard, etc.
- Provide plastic screen for reception staff
- Apply barriers to prevent contamination of scanners

WORKFLOW

- Adjust scan protocols to reduce patient dwell time ("scan and go")
- Perform tele-consultations with patients
- Replace multidisciplinary team discussions with virtual meetings
- Adapt service hours to maintain provision of essential services
- Move administrative procedures requiring physical contact to back-end
- Remote reporting to avoid crowded reading rooms
- Segregate staff using alternating duty rosters to avoid collective illness