SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE CARE OF CHILDREN IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DURING COVID-19

**PEDIATRIC CONTEXT:**
- Children with COVID-19 present to the ED with symptoms common to other viral illnesses
- Not all children who are positive for COVID-19 have a fever
- Children are generally faring well with COVID-19, few need inpatient care
- Testing only admitted patients leaves us less likely to know which children have COVID-19

---

**Cohorting Patients**
- Set apart a treatment area for children with respiratory symptoms to help protect providers + other ED patients.

**Visitor Policies**
- Limit to one caregiver.
- Screen visitors for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Adopt universal masking policies for visitors.

**Aerosol Generating Procedures**
- High flow oxygen* & nebulized treatments (albuterol, racemic epi) may be aerosol generating.
- Try metered-dose inhalers (MDIs) with spacers in place of nebulizers for wheeze.
- If nebulizers are needed, ensure staff use full PPE with N95s + negative pressure rooms if available.

*The threshold at which high flow oxygen elevates risk of infection from COVID-19-positive patients is controversial. Use of PPE should follow CDC & institutional guidelines based on evolving evidence.

**Medications**
- Did you know?
  - Even infants can be treated with MDIs. Place the mask over their nose + mouth + wait for them to take 6 good breaths (screaming is ok).
  - Encourage patients bring their own MDI to the ED.
  - Consider establishing processes for sterilization + re-use of MDIs to conserve supplies.

---

Ideas in this infographic were crowdsourced from members of the Michigan Emergency Department Improvement Collaborative (MEDIC) during a town hall meeting held in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on 3/26/2020. MEDIC is a learning collaborative of 23+ hospital EDs across the state of Michigan. MEDIC is supported by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network as part of the Value Partnerships program. The information presented does not necessarily reflect the views of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan or any of its employees. The ideas presented are not an endorsement by MEDIC. Recognize that care strategies are context specific and may not apply to all settings. This information reflects comments from individuals at MEDIC EDs.

www.medicqi.org  @medic_qi