notes

- The protocol should be used in ALL patients who are suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19. The protocol can also be used in any situation where a patient is isolated for infectious disease.
- For patients who are low risk for COVID-19 infection AND local infection control guidelines dictate that gown, gloves, mask, and eye protection are not required for close patient encounters (i.e. examinations), please defer to local infection control and manufacturer policies for cleaning the device.
- PoCUS can benefit patients who have actual or potential COVID-19 infection. This includes assessment of lung pathology, cardiac function, fluid tolerance, vascular access/procedural guidance, and confirmation of endotracheal intubation.
- PoCUS can also benefit patients who have non-COVID-19 related complaints and concomitant COVID-19 infection.
- The utility of PoCUS may increase during a pandemic, as access to plain films, CT, radiology performed ultrasound and echocardiography become limited.
- As community transmission of COVID-19 increases, patients infected with COVID-19 may present without respiratory symptoms or fever. Once local infection control guidelines advise gown, gloves, mask, and eye protection for ALL close patient encounters, regardless of symptoms, then this protocol should be used for ALL patients when performing PoCUS.
- PoCUS may also cause harm if strict infection control protocols are not followed. The ultrasound machine, the user, and the ultrasound gel can act as infectious fomites, putting patient and clinicians at risk.
- Hand-held devices are easier to protect from contamination and easier to disinfect after use than cart-based systems. Note that devices may have decreased image generation capabilities when compared to cart-based systems.
- Consider acquiring a dedicated display for use with the hand-held probe to avoid using personal phone/tablet.

definitions

- **Device:** Any hand-held ultrasound device that may consist of wireless or wired probes used with tablets, phones, or integrated screens.
- **Wipes:** Cleaning supplies that include both solutions and wipes. The chemical composition of wipes should be compatible with manufacturer recommendations for each device AND should be effective at eliminating the COVID-19 virus. Cleaning the device should always include cord if present.
- **Don:** To put on personal protective equipment (PPE).
- **Doff:** To remove PPE.

tips

- The key to this cleaning protocol is ONE thorough wipe of the device before scanning and TWO thorough wipes of the device after scanning.
- Ungloved hands should never touch something dirty. If in doubt, wash hands again.
- Always handle device with gloved hands.
- If probe covers are not available, use small clear garbage bags, sandwich bags, or wet umbrella bags with elastic bands. These covers do NOT have to be sterile.