Adult Code Blue Response during COVID

During the COVID Pandemic HHS will be modifying how our teams respond to Adult Code Blue calls at all sites for both respiratory and cardiac deterioration. All Code Blue calls will be treated as "Protected Code Blue" effectively immediately. A Protected Code Blue (PCB) is a response framework designed to minimize exposure of staff and physicians to suspected or confirmed COVID patients as well as minimize the unnecessary utilization of our PPE stocks.

What should I do if I need to call a Code Blue?

- Activation of a PCB is the same as calling a normal Code Blue
- Call your site specific emergency code number and request a Code Blue activation to your unit.
- Have the patient chart ready outside the room for the arrival of the Code Blue team to highlight information on COVID status and POST.

What should I do while waiting for the Code Team to arrive

- Place oxygen on the patient (if not already on) and check for a pulse (primary care nurse only)
- If no pulse initiate CPR according to BLS guidelines (** Based on a risk assessment, chest compressions can be started without wearing N95 if patient not deemed at risk of COVID 19 or known to be COVID Negative)

What should I do if I hear a Code Blue called?

- If you are a NOT a member of the Code Blue Team DO NOT respond to the location
- If you are a member of the ward staff DO NOT put on PPE and go in the room to assist
- Prepare for the code team arrival (have N95, blue gown, face shield, gloves available)
- OUR #1 GOAL IS THE PROTECTION OF OUR STAFF

What does the Protected Code Blue team do differently?

- The team is made up of the most skilled staff and physicians available to respond (some variation in members depending on your specific site)
- The team captain will determine which members are required in the room on arrival
  - Based on cardiac vs respiratory arrest
- Enhanced PPE will be worn by the team members selected to enter the room and must be checked by the Safety Coach prior to entering the room
- The team captain will determine what equipment/supplies are needed and they will be passed into the room ( The Code Cart will remain outside the room)
- The team will use specialized tools and medications to further minimize the risk of exposing the team to aerosolized particles
- Members of the team who aren’t in the room will be outside providing support to the team in the room