



## RNs DEFENDING NEW YORK'S HEALTH, Demanding Preparedness from Hospitals

To ensure the safety and health of staff, patients, and the New York community, every healthcare facility in New York must take the following safety measures to prepare for COVID Resurgence. These detailed Environmental Control standards are a part of the broader **NYSNA COVID Resurgence Plan**, available online at [nysna.org/resurgence](https://nysna.org/resurgence)



### Environmental Controls that Will Save Lives:

- 1. Cohorting of all COVID-positive patients in separate units** with enhanced PPE standards is essential. Access controls will be established to ensure efficient cohorting of walk-ins.
- 2. All patients must be tested upon entering the facility** and required to wear surgical masks.
- 3. All visitors must be masked and visitation must be extremely controlled.** Visitor policies must be clearly communicated to the public, visitors must be strictly tracked, with time restrictions on their visit, and there must be adequate non-nursing staff to enforce the policy. NY facilities cannot return to open-door unlimited visitation policies.
- 4. Elective procedures must match the COVID census,** and suspend automatically if it starts to rise again. All patients must be tested prior to their procedures, and there must be COVID-specific standard precautions for operating rooms and labor and delivery.
- 5. HVAC and Filtration systems must be improved to use ventilation and negative air filtration** more effectively during the resurgence. HEPA filters and other methods must be made available on all potential COVID units.
- 6. Donning, Doffing, and Decon areas must be made available** for all staff and all units.