

EC Highlights: HVAC SHUTDOWN

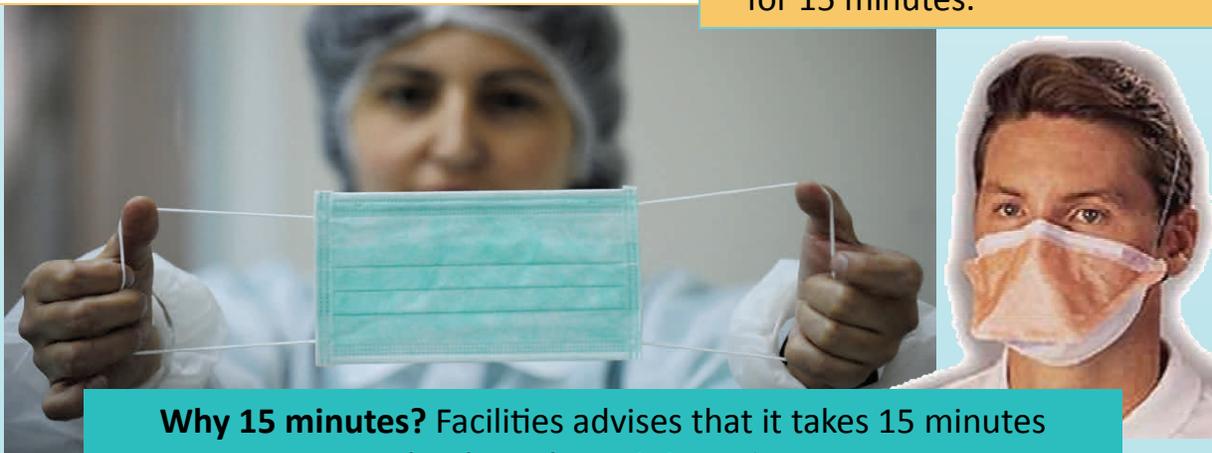
(HVAC: HEATING, VENTILATION & AIR CONDITIONING)
**DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO FOR A
PATIENT IN ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS?**

If moving patients in Airborne Isolation Precautions to another unit (into negative pressure rooms) is not feasible:

- ✓ 15 minutes before planned HVAC shutdown, or when notified of an unplanned shutdown, the patient should wear a procedure mask (not an N95 respirator mask), so that air in the room during the shutdown is less likely to contain infectious organisms **from** the patient. Minimizing the number of infectious organisms in the room air will decrease the risk of those organisms escaping from the room; though, per the Airborne Isolation procedure, the room door should be opened as little as possible—especially during a shutdown.
- ✓ The patient should remain masked for the duration of HVAC shutdown. The mask can be removed once Facilities has determined that negative pressure has been restored.
- ✓ Staff entering the room during an HVAC shutdown are to wear an N95 respirator or PAPR per Airborne Isolation procedure even when the patient is masked.

For patients in Protective Environments (positive pressure rooms):

- ✓ Keep room door closed while HVAC is shut down **and** for 15 minutes afterwards.
- ✓ At the time of the HVAC shutdown, the patient should wear an N95 respirator (or procedure mask if an N95 is not feasible) and continue to wear it at all times until Facilities has determined that the room has been restored to positive pressure for 15 minutes.



Why 15 minutes? Facilities advises that it takes 15 minutes to completely replace air in patient rooms.