

# ED Operational Redesign to Enhance Infection Control During the Pandemic



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By ADRIANA DIAZ / CBS NEWS / October 19, 2020, 7:18 PM

# Surge in coronavirus cases puts strain on Wisconsin hospitals



## Wisconsin Judge Restores Restrictions on Bars, Restaurants Amid Surge in Covid-19

Judge finds earlier high-court ruling that ended Safer at Home order might not apply to this case

By [Joe Barrett](#)

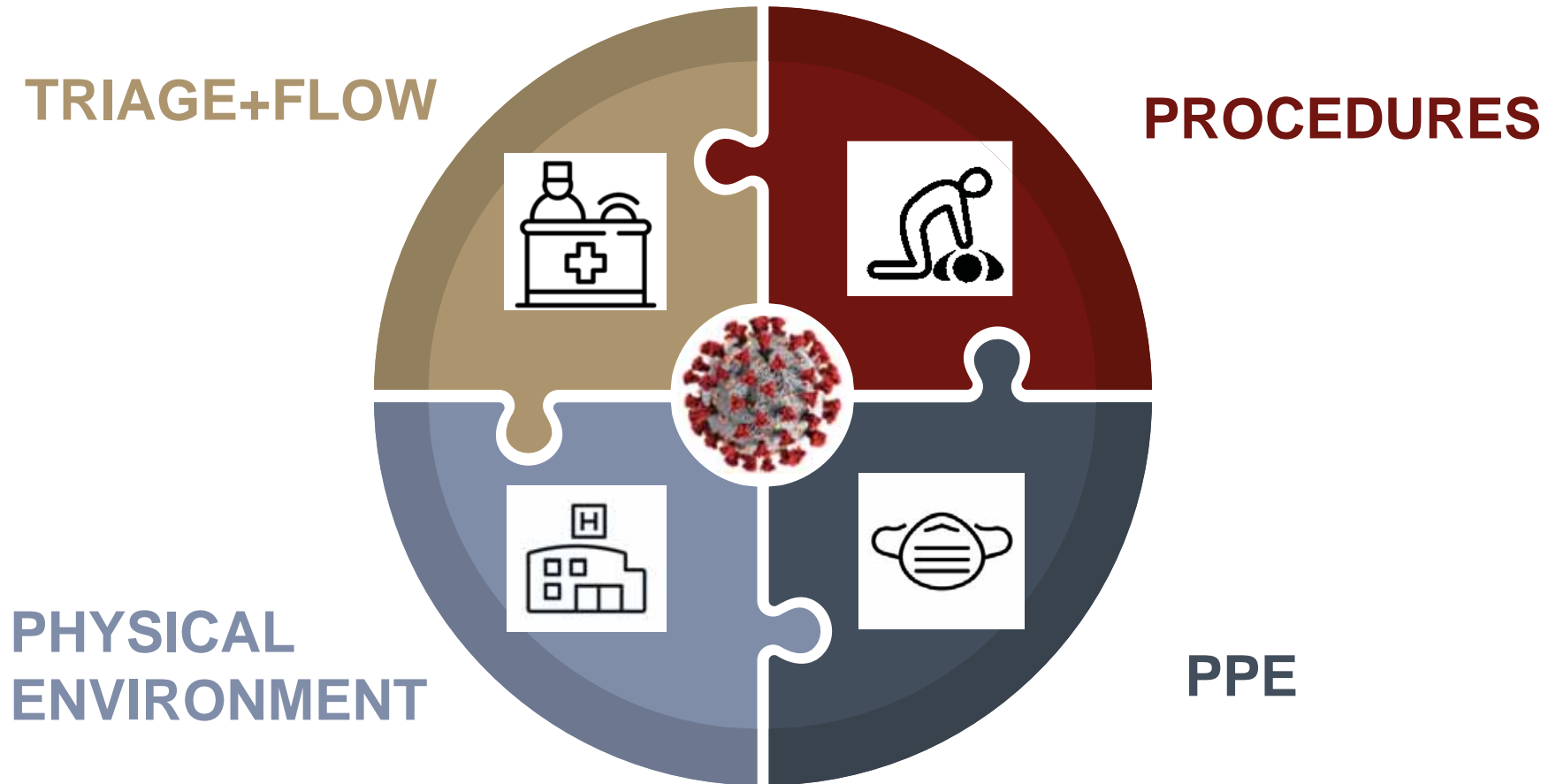
Updated Oct. 19, 2020 1:49 pm ET

# OBJECTIVES

**1. KEEP PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS SAFE**

**2. MAINTAIN OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY**

# Solving the Puzzle



# Triage + Flow Redesign

- The American Center
  - Challenges
    - No space between outside and waiting room
    - Small waiting room space
  - Solutions
    - Indoor tent to create a pt screening area
      - HEPA filter, sealed, staff in full PPE
    - Divided patient flow for CLI vs non-CLI
      - Separate triage hallway and ED pod



# Triage + Flow Redesign

- University Hospital

- Challenges

- Physician in triage model
    - Waiting room often crowded
    - Higher acuity and at-risk populations

- Solutions

- Closed physician triage → Pivot RN in triage
    - Add second check-in/vitals station
    - Pull CLI pts immediately to a room (if possible)
    - Convert ED Obs Unit to Respiratory Care Unit (RCU)



# Physical Environment

- Challenges
  - UH = 6 negative pressure rooms, no-resus bays
  - UH/TAC = distance patients in waiting rooms
  - Room contamination and turnaround time
  - Staff exposure during check-in
- Solutions
  - Convert 3 resus bays to negative pressure
  - Convert ED Obs Unit to RCU (13 total care areas)
  - Install equipment covers and clear barriers
  - No visitor policy

# Physical Environment





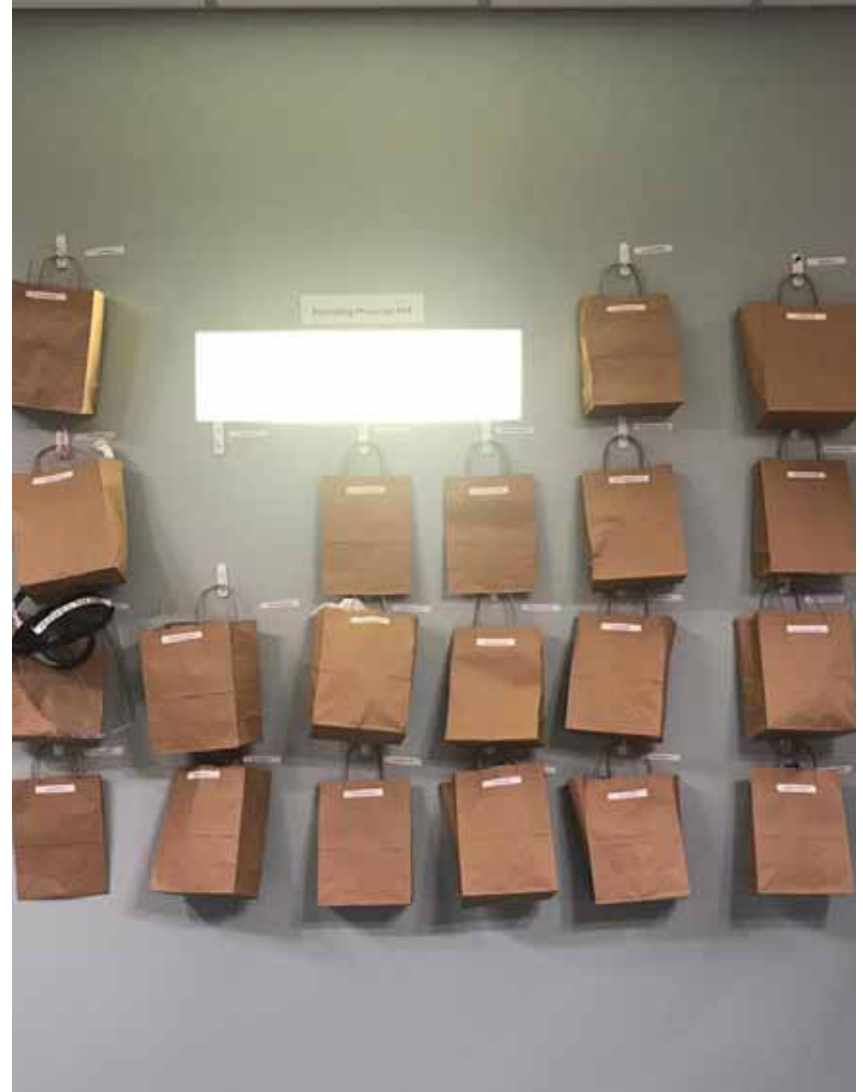
# Physical Environment



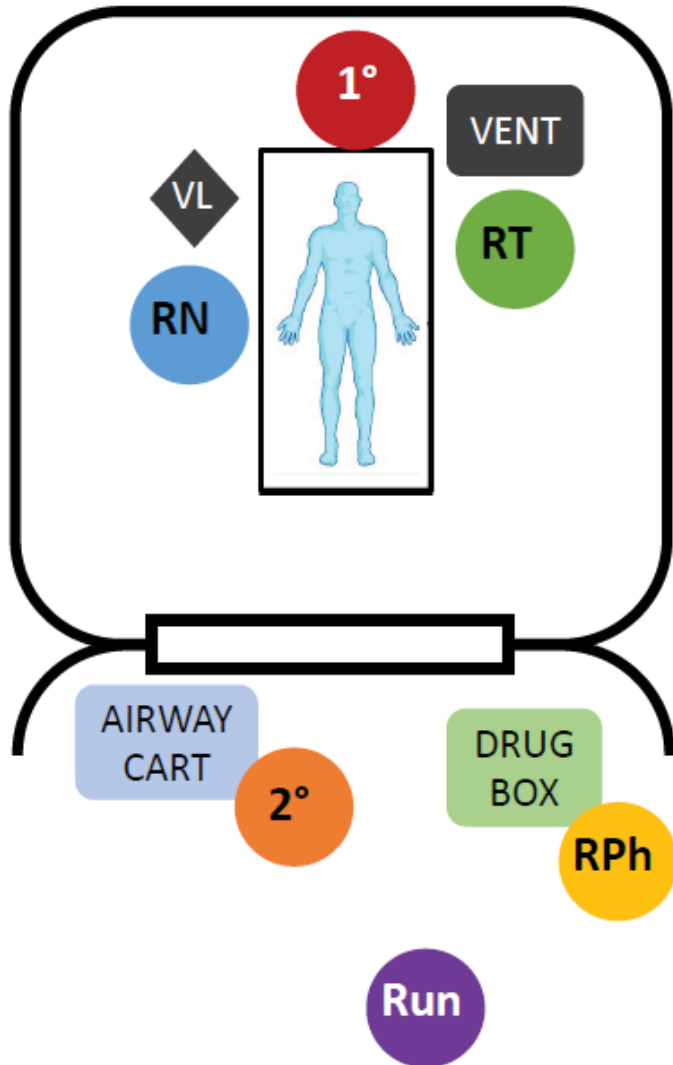
# PPE

- Challenges
  - Supply chain
  - Uncertainty about required level of PPE
  - Compliance concerns with donning/doffing
  - Staff concern about self contamination
- Solutions
  - Secure PPE for ED as a priority setting
  - Establish PPE protocol based on risk of exposure
  - COVID-19 airway simulation, including PPE
  - PPE storage area, locker rooms, decon stations

# PPE



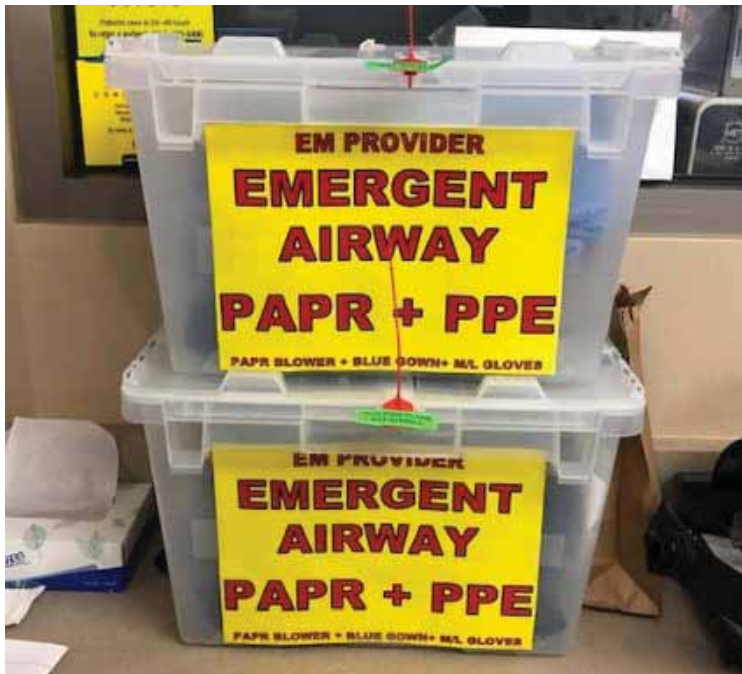
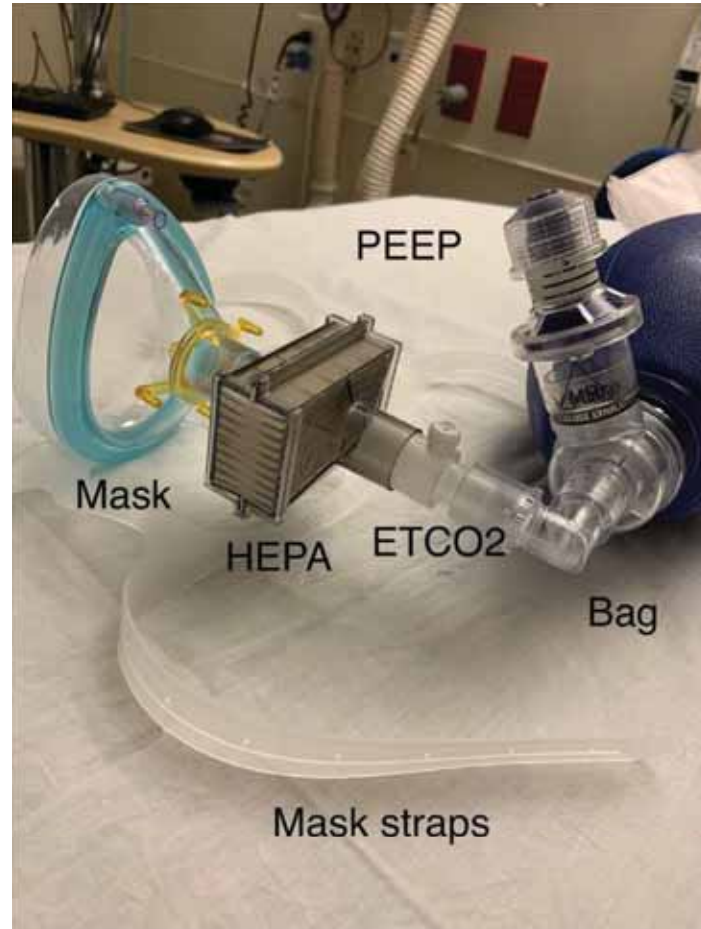
# Procedures



- Redesign for AGPs
  - Minimize staff in room
  - Ensure visibility
  - Stage equipment
  - Minimize door opening
  - ‘Dump’ kits in room
  - In-line viral filters
  - Airway strike team



# Procedures



# UW COVID-19 Response Team



Joshua Ross, MD  
Executive Vice Chair



Ciara Barclay-Buchanan, MD  
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## Communication is Key



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