

# ***EVOLVE*** **A hospital notary's journey through COVID.**

Carol L Salter, Nursing Shortage Program Manager ~ Larimer County

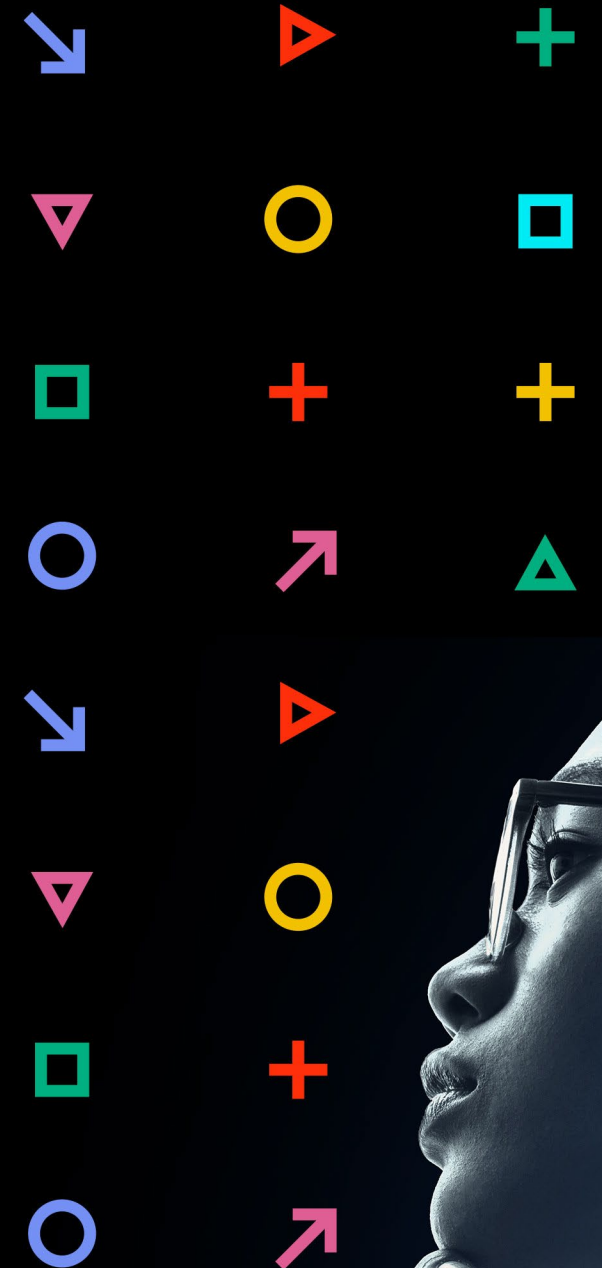


# ***EVOLVE***

## **A hospital notary's journey through COVID.**



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**This sums up  
my entire  
COVID  
experience....**



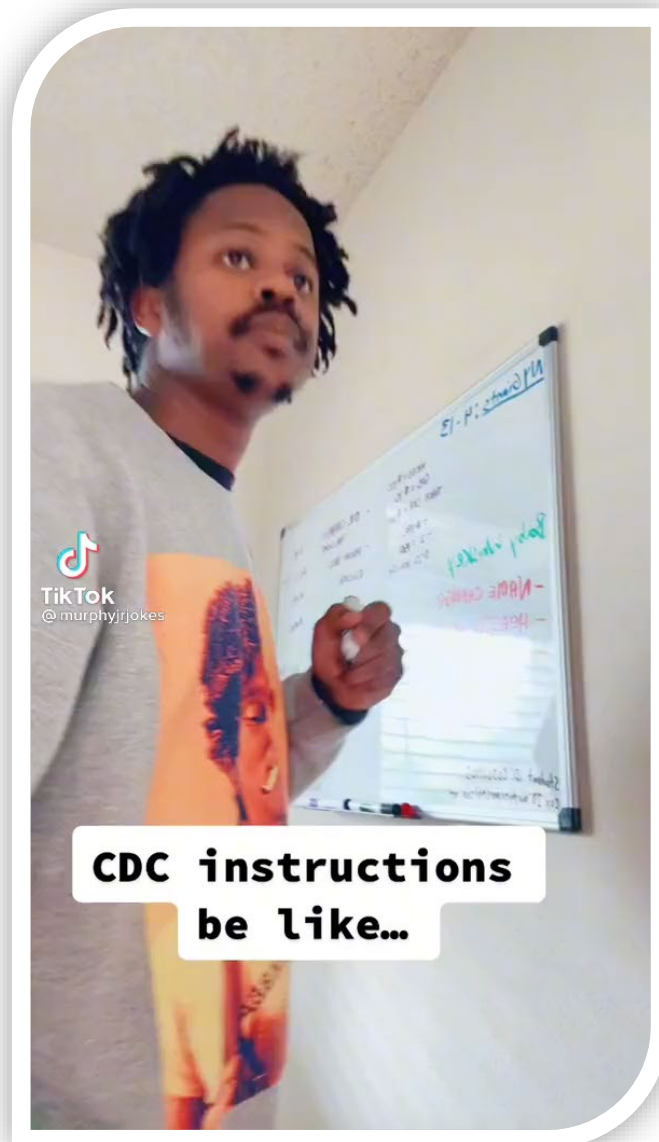
# EVOLVE

## Essential Meaning of *Evolve*

To change or develop slowly often into a better, more complex, or more advanced state.

<https://www.Meriam-webster.com/dictionary/evolve>

# Evolution of COVID





# If we knew then what we know now...



# A look back





# Infectious Disease and Notary Best Practices





# Standard Precautions

- Treat all blood and body fluids from every patient / document signer as if it were infectious.
- Treat all document signers as if they were COVID positive.
- **PREVENTION**
  - PPE
  - Safety Equipment
  - Best Practices

# Personal Protective Equipment

- Gloves
- Gowns
- Protective Eyewear
- Masks



# Best Practices

- Wear the appropriate PPE.
- Wash or gel hands before entering and exiting a patient's room.
- Follow the protocols set up by the facility.



# Transmission Based Precautions

## pre·cau·tion

*(noun)*

A measure taken in advance to prevent something dangerous, unpleasant, or inconvenient from happening.

## Indirect

- Airborne
- Vehicle
- Vector

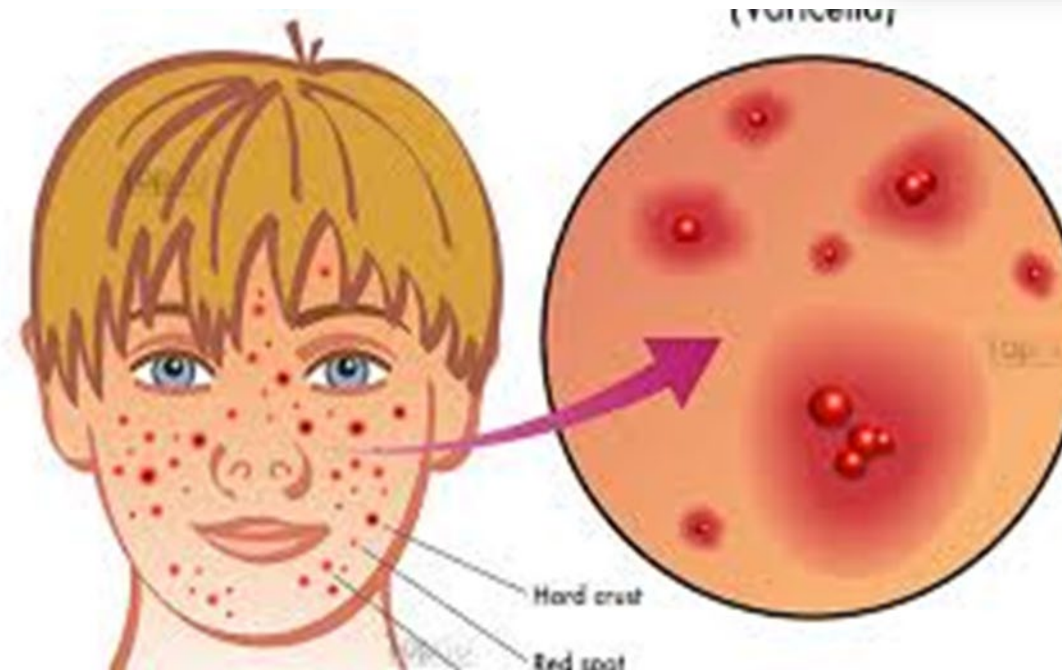
## Direct

- Contact
- Droplet

<https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dsepd/ss1978/lesson1/section10.html>

# Airborne

- Patients are located in negative airflow rooms.
- **Notary - Gown / Gloves / Eyewear / Mask**
  - TB
  - Measles
  - Chicken Pox / Shingles
  - SARS
  - Smallpox



<https://medcom.uiowa.edu/theloop/announcements/updates-to-transmission-based-precautions-signs>

# Contact

- Patient's rooms will be clearly marked as "Contact Isolation."
- **Notary – Gown / Gloves**
  - MRSA
  - VRE
  - C Diff
  - Lice or Scabies

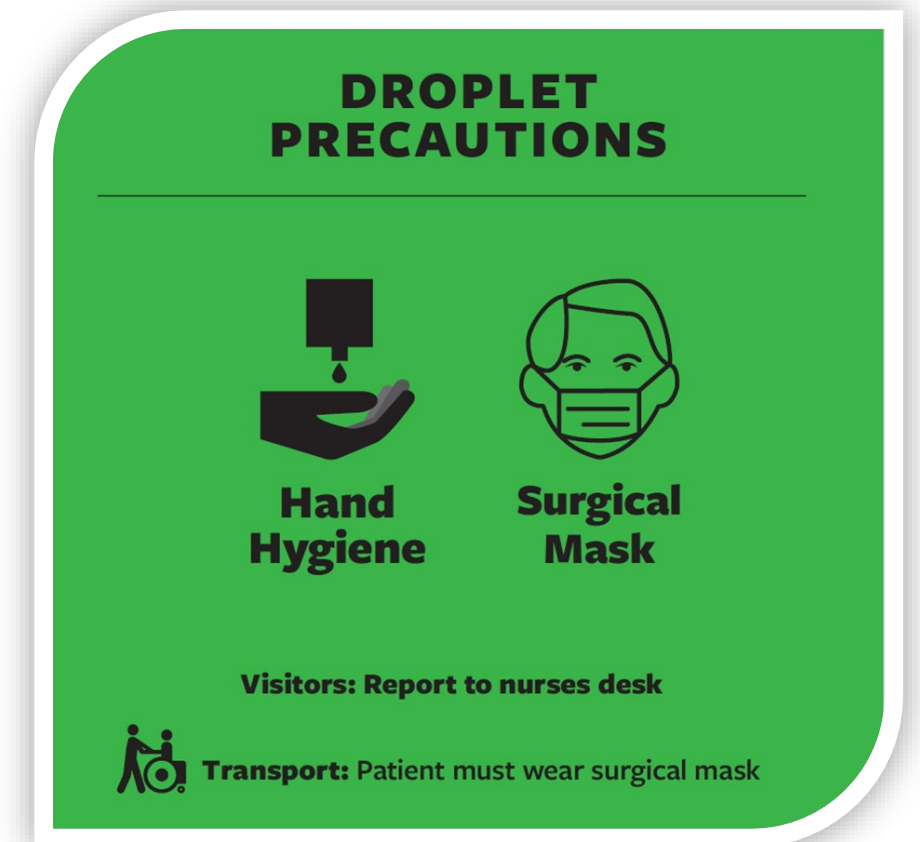


<https://medcom.uiowa.edu/theloop/announcements/updates-to-transmission-based-precautions-signs>



# Droplet

- Risk of microorganisms transmitted by coughing and sneezing
- **Notary – Mask / Eye Shield / Gloves**
  - Influenza
  - Bacterial Meningitis
  - Whooping Cough
  - Some types of Pneumonia
  - **COVID**



[https://medcom.uiowa.edu/theloop/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/droplet-isolation-sign\\_2019.png](https://medcom.uiowa.edu/theloop/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/droplet-isolation-sign_2019.png)

# Blood Borne Pathogens



- Transmitted through mucous membranes or open wounds – **NOT** through the air or casual contact.
- Needle stick
- Contact between infectious materials and eyes, nose, mouth, exposed opening in skin
  - HIV
  - HBV
  - HCV

[Bloodborne Infectious Diseases: HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C | NIOSH | CDC](#)

# Procedures for Notarization In a Healthcare Setting





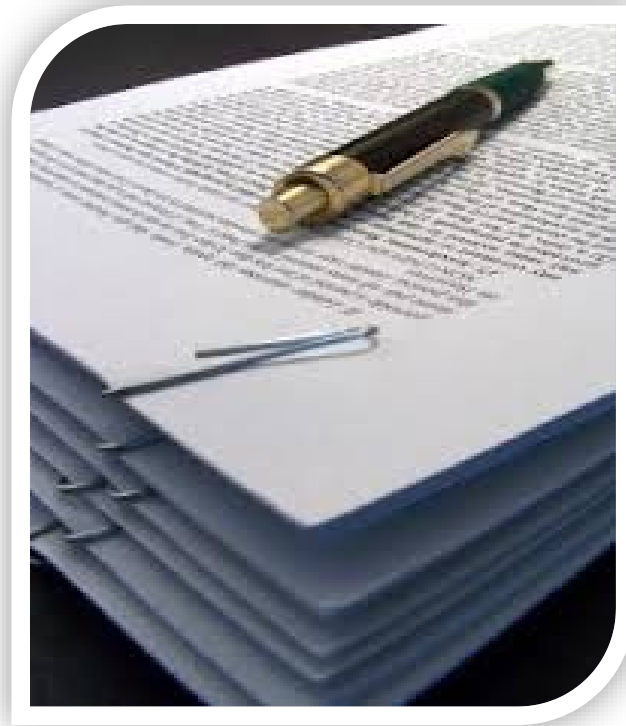
# Ill and Disabled Document Signers

- **Determine Willingness and Awareness**
  - Speak with the document signer alone
  - Watch for coercion
  - Must be able to communicate with the signer
- **Coherent Communication**
  - What about unconsciousness or coma?
  - Medications
  - Stroke or loss of voice

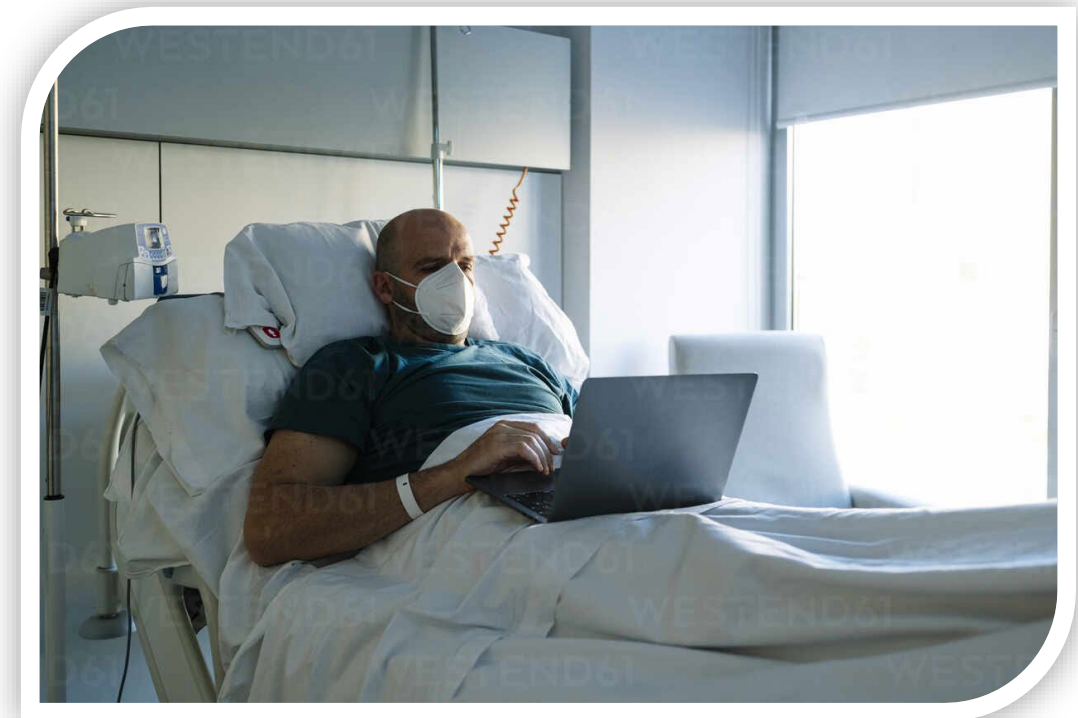
# Ill and Disabled Document Signers

- **Proper Identification**
  - Review ID provided by the signer
  - Take into consideration the signer's physical condition
- **Conflict of Interest**
  - Notary should not be a beneficiary
  - If functioning as an employed Notary, know your company policy.

# Universal Healthcare Documents



- Power of Attorney
- Advanced Directives
- Last Will and Testament





# Challenges for Notaries Public in a COVID World

- Hospital / Facility Restrictions
- Proper PPE



# Challenges for Notaries Public in a COVID World

## LONG COVID

*common long COVID symptoms*

- flu-like symptoms
- **brain fog**
- chest pain
- digestive pain/issues
- trouble sleeping
- weight loss
- continued respiratory symptoms



# Real World Scenarios

- How do you handle a “no visitor” restriction?
- How do you clean your notary tools?

# Questions?



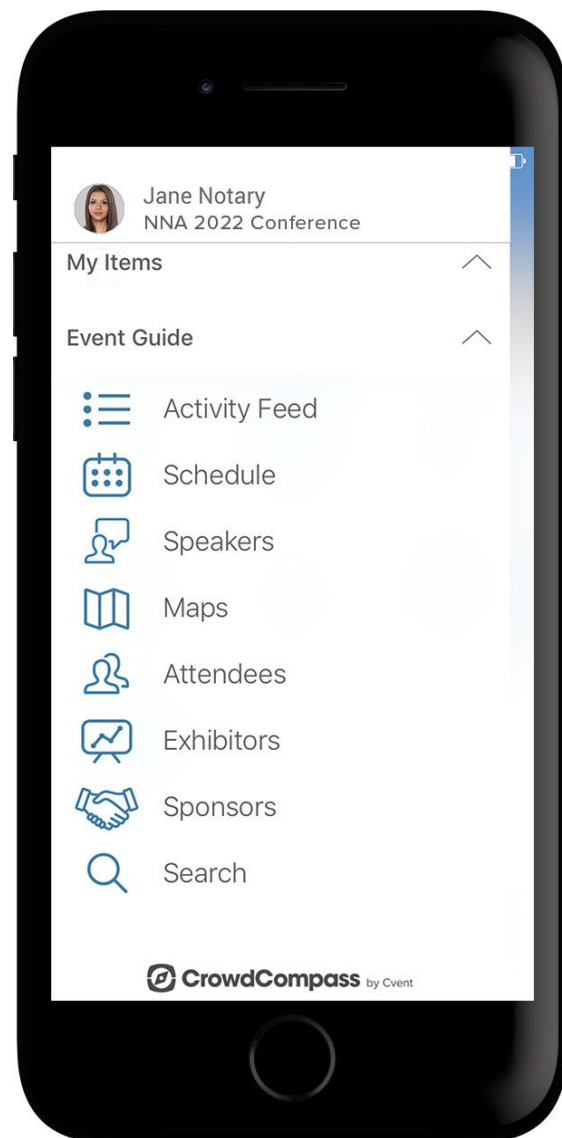
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