

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Droplet and Contact Precautions Acute Care Facilities

This document was adapted from the [Routine Practices Additional Precautions](#) for management of COVID-19 for health care workers. For more information, please contact the Infection Prevention and Control department at Public Health Ontario at ipac@oahpp.ca.

Hand Hygiene



Hand hygiene is performed:

- Before and after each patient contact.
- Before performing invasive procedures.
- Before preparing, handling, serving or eating food.
- After care involving body fluids and before moving to another activity.
- Before putting on and after taking off gloves and other PPE.
- After personal body functions (e.g., blowing one's nose).
- Whenever hands come into contact with secretions, excretions, blood and body fluids.
- After contact with items in the patient's environment.
- Whenever there is doubt about the necessity for doing so.

Patient Placement



- Single room with own toileting facilities.
- Door may remain open.
- Whenever possible, for aerosol-generating medical procedures (AGMPs), perform the procedure in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room with the door closed.

For more see: [IPAC Requirements for AGMPs](#).

Environment and Equipment



- Dedicate routine equipment to the patient (e.g., stethoscope, thermometer).
- Clean and disinfect all equipment that comes out of the room.
- All high-touch surfaces in the patient's room must be cleaned twice daily.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Wear a mask and eye protection or face shield within 2 meters of the patient.
- For AGMPs, replace mask with N95 respirator.
- Wear gloves when entering the patient's room or bed space.
- Wear a long-sleeved gown when entering the patient's room or bed space.
- **Wearing gloves is NOT a substitute for hand hygiene.**

On leaving the room or bed space:

- Remove gloves and gown and perform hand hygiene.
- Remove eye protection and mask and perform hand hygiene.

For more see: [Recommended Steps for Putting on and Taking off PPE](#).



Patient Transport

- Avoid any unnecessary transport of patient outside of room.
- Patient to wear a mask during transport.
- Only if the patient cannot tolerate wearing a mask, transport staff should wear a mask and eye protection.
- Transport staff should consult with the facility IPAC designate for additional instructions.
- Clean and disinfect equipment used for transportation after use.



Visitors

- Visitors must perform hand hygiene before entry and on leaving the room.
- Visitors to wear a mask, eye protection, a long-sleeved gown and gloves when entering the room of a patient with COVID-19.
- Visitors to remove protective apparel upon leaving the room.

Sources

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Routine practices and additional precautions in all health care settings [Internet]. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2012 [cited 2020 Feb 19]. Available from: www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/RPAP_All_HealthCare_Settings_Eng2012.pdf

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Best practices for prevention, surveillance and infection control management of novel respiratory infections in all health care settings [Internet]. 1st revision. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020 [cited 2020 Feb 19]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/bp-novel-respiratory-infections.pdf?la=en>

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