## Droplet Precautions

In addition to **Routine Practices**

### Accommodation
- Single room and bathroom (recommended whenever possible).
- **Droplet Precautions sign** visible on entry to room or bed space.
- Room door may remain open (close door if an aerosol generating procedure is in progress).
- If room-sharing, a separation of at least 2 metres between patients\(^1\), a dedicated bathroom or commode for each patient and privacy curtains must be pulled between patients.

### Hand Hygiene
- Perform **hand hygiene** using alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR) or soap and water as described in **Routine Practices**.
- Perform **hand hygiene**:
  - before accessing and putting on a mask and eye protection;
  - after taking off eye protection and mask.
- Educate patients and visitors about how and when to use hand hygiene products.

### Personal Protective Equipment: Masks and Eye Protection
- If you need a mask, you also need eye protection (e.g. goggles, face shields, visors attached to masks).
- Perform **hand hygiene** before putting on and immediately after taking off masks and eye protection.
- Proper wearing of masks includes:
  - ensuring a snug fit over the nose and under the chin;
  - molding the metal bar over the nose;
  - wearing the mask with the moisture-absorbing side closest to the face;
  - removing mask when leaving patient room or bed space;
  - changing mask when it becomes moist;
  - careful removal after use, touching only the elastic or ties;
  - not wearing masks around the neck.
- Prescription glasses do not meet Workplace Health and Safety regulations for eye protection.
- Clean and disinfect re-useable eye protection after each use.
- Discard single-use masks and eye protection in waste container.
- Refer to the [AHS Donning and Doffing PPE posters](#) for details on careful removal and disposal of masks and eye protection.

### Handling Patient Care Items and Equipment
- Use disposable patient equipment when possible.
- Dedicate re-useable equipment for a single patient use only, until discharge (e.g. thermometers, blood pressure equipment).
- If reusable equipment cannot be dedicated for a single patient use, clean and disinfect it between patients.
- Droplet Precautions rooms should contain a dedicated linen bag; double bag only if leaking.
- Do not share toys, electronic games, and books that cannot be cleaned and disinfected.
- After patients are discharged, discard single-use supplies that remain and launder unused linens.
- Used meal trays and beverage dishes do not require special handling. Place on the dietary cart or in an area designated for used dishes. Disposable dishes and utensils are not required.

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\(^1\) Patients are all persons who receive or have requested health care or services. The terms “client” or “resident” may also be used, depending on the health care setting.
### Patient Ambulation Outside Room, Bed Space or Transfer

- Patients should leave the room or bed space for essential purposes only, exceptions require IPC consultation.
- Before patients leave their room, educate or assist them to:
  - perform **hand hygiene**;
  - put on a procedure/surgical mask.
- Staff assisting with transport do not require a mask, face shield or eye protection unless patient is unable to wear a procedure/surgical mask.
- Notify the receiving area before departure of the need for Droplet Precautions.
- At the destination, transporting staff remove personal protective equipment and perform **hand hygiene** after leaving patient.

### Environmental Cleaning

- Room surfaces and equipment cleaning/disinfection is required on a daily basis or more frequently if directed by IPC, using AHS approved products and procedures.
- After discharge, clean room as per existing facility cleaning practices.
- Replace privacy curtains.

### Visitors

- Encourage visitors to perform **hand hygiene**.
- Instruct family or visitors how to put on and take off masks and eye protection.
- Keep the number of visitors to a minimum.

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