

Reference Guide: Home Care Managers and Staff

Central Zone Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

The Home Care Infection Control Professionals are available Monday through Friday from 0800-1615h (excluding holidays). The contact information for the Home Care Infection Control Professionals can be accessed via the IPC webpage for [Central Zone](#).

The intent of this resource is to guide staff to IPC related information. Consider saving this document to your computer desktop.

The **screenshots** show the pathway to the main IPC Webpage.

- ✓ Going through [insite](#) (either by searching IPC or Teams > More > search IPC) will take you to the IPC webpage where you have access to zonal information and by clicking on the external link you will have access to the provincial IPC resources.
- ✓ Going through AHS.ca will take you directly to the external AHS webpages; search for IPC. If you wish to obtain zone-specific information, you click on the map of Alberta – Central Zone.

Clear your browser cache so you can see the latest version online. Note [insite](#) screenshots were taken February 7, 2023 and may differ slightly from online; links cannot be accessed through a screenshot.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the insite website. The search bar is highlighted with a yellow background and contains the text 'IPC'. A blue arrow points from a text box above the search bar to the search bar. The text box contains the text 'SEARCH for IPC on insite'. The website header includes the insite logo, navigation links (About, Tools, Teams, News, Social, Contact), and a search bar. The main content area features a large image of a man in a suit, a section for COVID-19 updates, and a section for Connect Care.

For more information contact: ipccenzadmin@ahs.ca

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insite

Everything Search Insite
Search People

SEARCH for IPC
on the AHS external webpage

Alberta Health Services | Healthy Albertans. Healthy Communities. Together. | 811 Health Link Health Advice 24/7 | Home | Contact Staff | Help | Patient Feedback | IPC

COVID-19 Info | Continuous masking remains in effect at all AHS, APL and Covenant facilities provincially.

ABOUT AHS | FIND HEALTHCARE | INFORMATION FOR | CAREERS | NEWS | AHS IN MY ZONE | ENGAGE

Immunization: Book influenza or COVID-19 immunization

COVID-19 Information: COVID-19 Info for Albertans

MyAHS Connect: Learn About Connect Care

Protect our Kids: Age 6 mos - 11 yrs Tips, FAQ & Interactive Game

Help in Tough Times: Mental Health Resources



✓ Top Result(s)
Infection Prevention & Control
www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page6410.aspx

[Infection Prevention & Control | Alberta Health Services](#)

Home > Information For > Health Professionals > Infection Prevention & Control

Infection Prevention & Control

Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) is dedicated to **preventing infections** acquired within healthcare facilities.

The [IPC goal](#) is to reduce the incidence of healthcare associated infections in patients, residents, and clients by:

- process and outcome surveillance
- outbreak identification and management
- consultation and education
- guideline, policy, and procedure development
- research

Quick Links

- Emerging Issues
- Disease & Condition Tables:
 - [Acute care](#)
 - [Continuing Care](#)
- Point of Care:
 - [Point of Care Risk Assessment](#)
 - [Assessing Additional Respiratory](#)
 - [Rapid assessment for presenting](#)

Resources & Tools

- [Contact Us](#)
- [Cohorting Principles](#)
- [External Links](#)
- IPC Healthcare Facility & Construction
 - [IPC Healthcare Facility Design Requirements](#)
 - [ICRA & Preventive Measures Tools](#)
- [Medical Device Reprocessing](#)
- [Outbreak Management](#)
- [Patient Blood & Body Fluid Exposure](#)
- [Patient Care Handouts](#)
- [Posters](#)
- [Provincial PPE Safety Checklist Program](#)
- [Single Use Medical Device](#)

Related Programs

- [Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)
- [Appropriateness of Care: Asymptomatic Bacteriuria](#)

Zone Resources

- [North](#)
- [Edmonton](#)
- [Central](#)
- [Calgary](#)
- [South](#)

Zone Resources

- [North](#)
- [Edmonton](#)
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Click on **CENTRAL** for zone specific information

Infection Prevention & Control	Zones
Zones	Infection Prevention & Control
Resource Manuals	
Routine Practices	
Best Practice Recommendations	
Hand Hygiene	
Personal Protective Equipment	
Equipment Cleaning	
Posters	

[Zones | Alberta Health Services](#)

This link will take you to the **Central Zone MOH webpage** (Refer to page 6) for resources on outbreak management

MOH - Central Zone | Alberta Health Services

Zones

Infection Prevention & Control

North | **Edmonton** | **Central** | Calgary | South

C. difficile Infection (CDI) Toolkit

- [CDI Checklist for Acute Care/Continuing Care/Mental Health](#)
- [CDI Toolkit Info Sheet](#)
- [Stool Chart/Bowel Record 2016 Sample Form 20404](#) - Order from DATA Communications
- [CDI Treatment Order Set – contact site Pharmacist](#)
- [AHS Provincial Contact Precautions Sporicidal Clean](#) (Poster)

Central Zone Best Practice Guidelines

- [Patients on Additional Precautions Leaving Room or Bed Space](#)

Outbreak Management

- [Outbreak Management CZMOH – Acute Care, Long Term Care, Supportive Living](#)

Patients with Diarrhea Management Tools

- [Management of Persons with Diarrhea Acute Care](#)
- [Management of Persons with Diarrhea Continuing Care](#)

IPC Resources

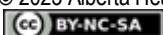
- [Manager / Charge Nurse Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [Finding ARO Status in Meditech](#)
- [IPC COVID-19 Additional Precautions without Walls in Shared Patient Care Space](#)
- [Transportation of Contaminated Medical Devices](#)

Clostridioides difficile infection (CDI)

If you suspect a client has a CDI:

- Review the CDI Checklist - <http://www.ahsweb.ca/ipc/cdi-chklist-zone-z3-cz-cdi-toolkit>
- Ensure access to personal protective equipment (PPE). If appropriate, set up an isolation cart.
- Use soap and water for hand hygiene. Follow IPC recommendations for [Special Situations for Hand Hygiene in Community-based Services](#).
- Schedule in clinic visits to end of day, if appropriate.
- Access to MyHealth Alberta Patient information [Learning About Clostridioides Difficile \(C. diff\) Infection](#).
- If appropriate, document frequency and consistency of stool. For example according to the Bristol Stool Chart on [Form 20404](#).
- Consult with the client's physician to determine if the stool sample should be collected and sent to the lab.
- If client is in a congregate living setting, initiate additional precautions ([Contact Sporicidal](#)).
- Refer to the [Antimicrobial Stewardship Program webpage](#) and the [Bugs and Drugs webpage](#) for additional information.

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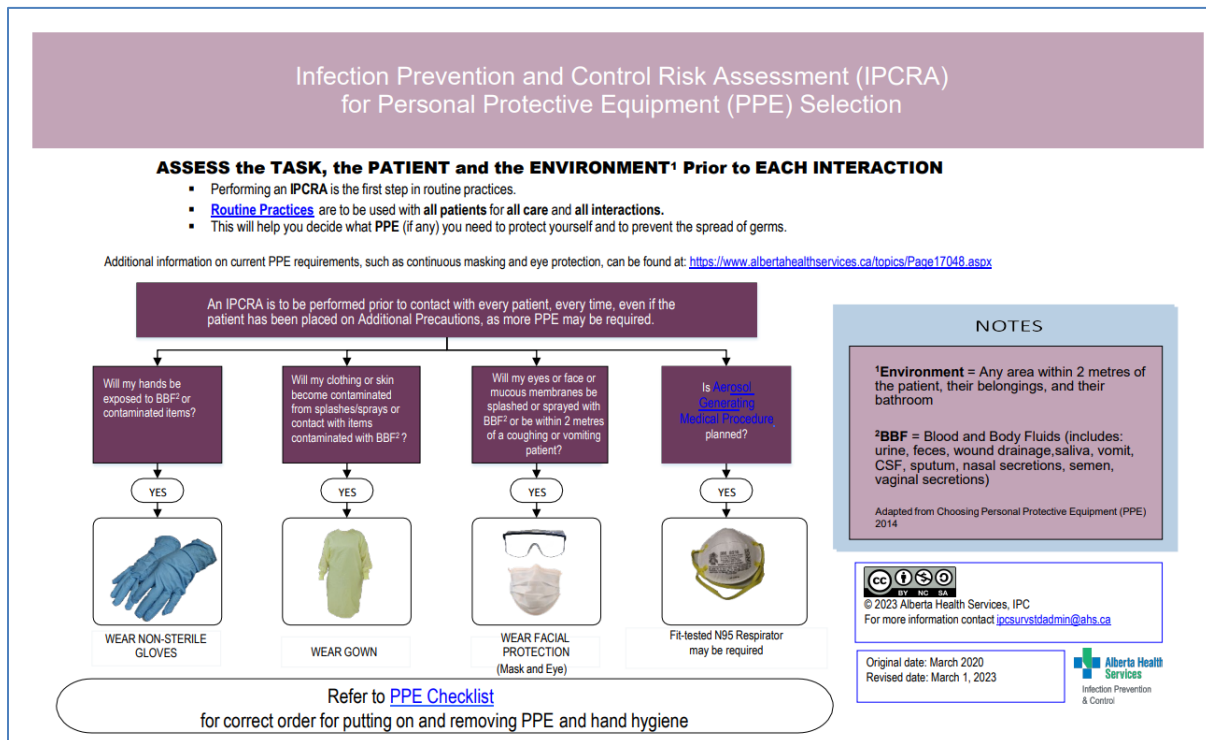
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Posters: In addition to the posters found on the **Continuing Care** tab of the [Resource Manuals](#), posters can be found from the Resources and Topics links ([Posters](#))

A couple of examples:

- [4 Moments of Hand Hygiene Posters for Community-Based Services](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Risk Assessment \(IPCRA\) and Choosing Personal Protective Equipment](#)

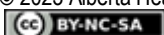


IPC Consultation

Contact your Infection Control Professional for consultation on infection control issues including:

- Appropriateness of additional precautions for clients including:
 - Management for clients with in-clinic visits when infection control is a concern.
 - Management for clients in congregate living with respect to IPC (e.g., client ambulation while on additional precautions)
 - Application and discontinuation of additional precautions both in home and in clinic settings.
- Education on related IPC topics (e.g., outbreaks)

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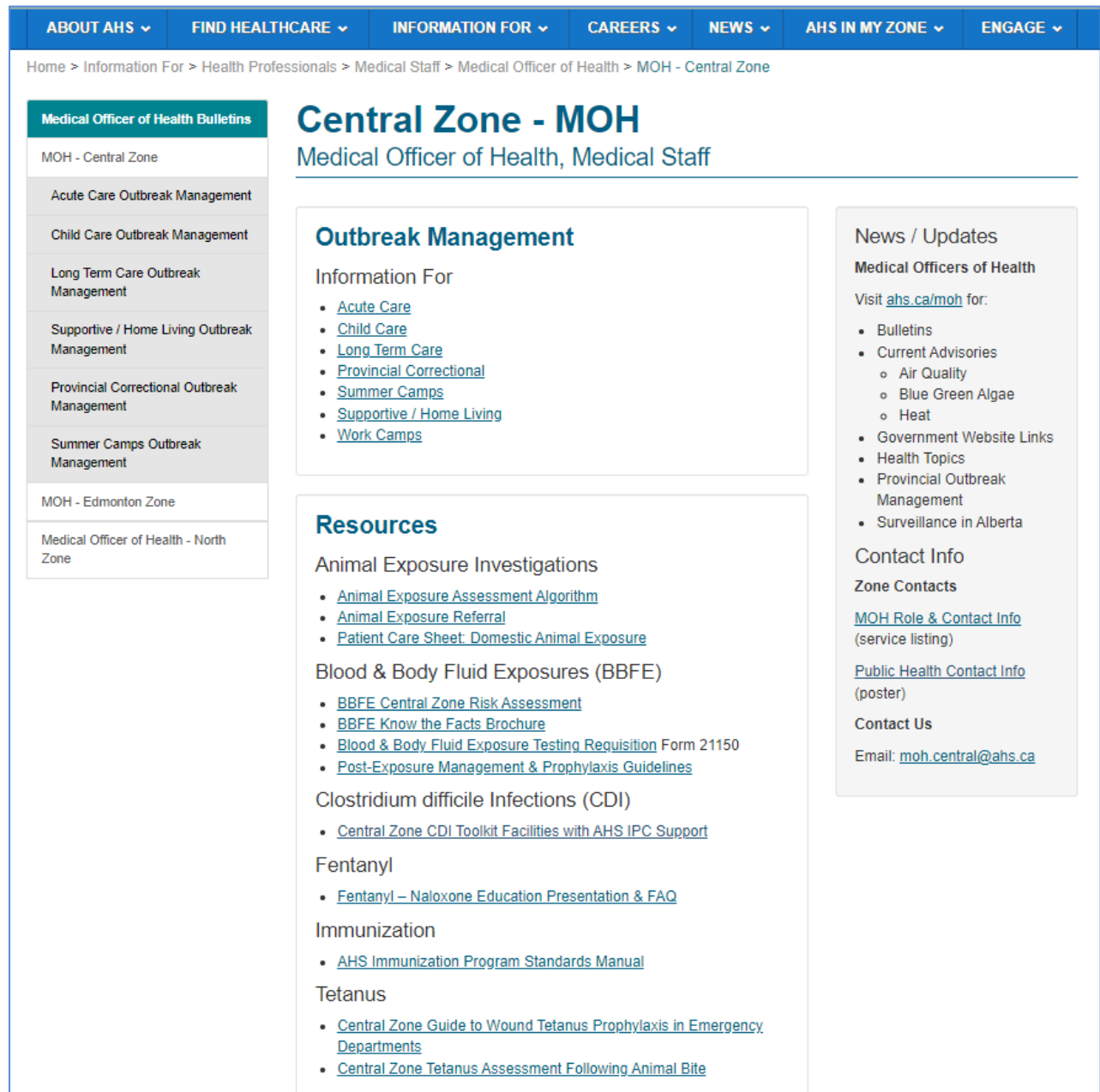


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[MOH - Central Zone | Alberta Health Services](#)



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Home > Information For > Health Professionals > Infection Prevention & Control

Infection Prevention & Control


Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) is dedicated to **preventing infections** acquired within healthcare facilities.

Learn about:

- [IPC Goals](#)
- [IPC Annual Report to Alberta Health](#)
- [Healthcare Worker IPC Competencies](#)
- [Competencies for IPC Staff](#)

[Contact us](#) for more information.


Resource Manuals



Directions for known and suspect diseases (includes additional precautions/isolation)

[More >](#)


Routine Practices



Standard practices and procedures for preventing infections

[More >](#)


Best Practice Recommendations



Best practice recommendations to prevent a patient from acquiring a healthcare associated infection

[More >](#)


Hand Hygiene



Hand hygiene is the most effective way to prevent the spread of communicable diseases and infections

[More >](#)


Personal Protective Equipment



Donning and doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

[More >](#)


Equipment Cleaning



Classification for equipment cleaning
(see also [Medical Device Reprocessing](#))

[More >](#)


Education & Training



Courses provide information about health, safety, emergency, information, and privacy requirements

[More >](#)


Surveillance & Reporting



We collect surveillance data at every acute care facility in the province

[More >](#)

Outbreak Management



Infectious disease outbreaks occur year round and in different settings

[More >](#)

Quick Links

[Emerging Issues](#)

Disease & Condition Tables:

- [Acute care](#)
- [Continuing Care](#)

Point of Care:

- [Point of Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\)](#)
- [Assessing the Need for Additional Precautions: Respiratory \(ILI\) Algorithm](#)
- [Rapid assessment & triage for patients presenting with fever](#)

Resources & Topics

[About IPC & Annual Report](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Cohorting Principles](#)

[External Links](#)

[IPC Healthcare Facility Design](#)

[ICRA & Preventive Measures Toolkit](#)

[Medical Device Reprocessing](#)

[Outbreak Management](#)

[Patient Blood & Body Fluid Exposure](#)

[Patient Care Handouts](#)

[Posters](#)

[Provincial PPE Safety Coach Program](#)

[Single Use Medical Devices](#)


Related Programs

[Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)

[Appropriateness of Care: Asymptomatic Bacteriuria](#)

Zone Resources

- [North](#)
- [Edmonton](#)
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- [Calgary](#)
- [South](#)



Any of these tabs will take you to PROVINCIAL IPC resources

[Infection Prevention & Control | Alberta Health Services](#)



Resource Manuals

[Community-Based Services Resource Manual](#) – This manual is intended to support staff in caring for clients who require health services in the community.

[The Continuing Care IPC Resource Manual Diseases and Conditions Table](#) – Helpful information for managing a client with a specific infectious disease or condition e.g.,: [Isolation Pocket Reference for Community, Ambulatory and Residential](#)

Isolation Pocket Reference for Community, Ambulatory and Residential Living Sites				
<i>(NOTE: THIS IS NOT AN INCLUSIVE LIST. Refer to the IPC Community-based Services IPC Manual)</i>				
DISEASE OR SYMPTOM PRESENTATION • Bulleted items refer to 'symptom presentations'	N95 Respirator (fit testing required)	Procedure Mask and eye protection	Gown	Gloves
AIRBORNE				
• Cough (>2 weeks), weight loss, night sweats and abnormal chest x-ray in persons with risk factors for pulmonary TB (e.g., Immigrant, Aboriginal, homeless, HIV)	✓			
• Fever with maculopapular rash, cough, conjunctivitis and coryza	✓			
Measles (N95 required if the HCW's immunity unknown)	✓			
TB (pulmonary or laryngeal)	✓			
AIRBORNE AND CONTACT				
• Fever with vesicular rash, headache, sore throat, cough	✓		✓	✓
Chickenpox (N95 required only if the HCW is not immune to chickenpox)	✓		✓	✓
Shingles, disseminated or localized in immunocompromised host (N95 required only if the HCW is not immune to chickenpox)	✓		✓	✓
DROPLET				
Haemophilus influenzae (Type B only) invasive disease		✓		
Mumps		✓		
Pertussis		✓		
Rubella		✓		
DROPLET AND CONTACT				
• Acute respiratory tract infection with any of: new cough or change in chronic cough, pharyngitis, fever, myalgia, arthralgia, headache		✓	✓	✓
• Diarrhea and vomiting (cause not known)		✓	✓	✓
• Headache, fever, neck stiffness, photophobia, petechial rash, decreased LOC		✓	✓	✓
Group A Streptococcus (GAS) pharyngitis, scarlet fever or invasive disease		✓	✓	✓



Best Practice Recommendations

Best Practice Recommendations are based on evidence and expert opinion and align to meet Alberta Health, Accreditation Canada, and Canadian Standards Association requirements.

- [Professional Supply Bags in Community-based Services](#)
- [Selection and Management \(Maintenance, Handling, and Cleaning\) of Isolation Carts](#)

Contact the Home Care Infection Control Professional for a couple of zone resources for the selection and setup of isolation carts. Examples are:

- Isolation Cart Key Points
- Tips for setting up isolation carts

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See the example below for navigating the Best Practice Recommendations.


To use the sortable / searchable table below, you may use a drop down menu to sort the results, or use the search bar to type in a keyword. [See instructions.](#)

Sort by Document Type

See all

Search: Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries (filtered from 39 total entries) | Show entries

Document Title <input type="button" value="↑↓"/>	Practice Area <input type="button" value="↑↓"/>
Selection and Management of Isolation Carts	Equipment Selection & Process
Sputum Specimen Collection	Patient Care



Discontinuing precautions

To determine if discontinuing precautions is appropriate:

- Refer to the [Continuing Care IPC Resource Manual Diseases and Conditions Table](#)
- Consult CDC for guidance during outbreaks or your Home Care ICP for guidance in other situations.

Discontinuing precautions for clients in supportive living:

- Ensure housekeeping performs an isolation clean* of client environment,
- Bath or shower client in conjunction with room cleaning,
- Arrange for laundering of dirty clothing as per site practices,
- Remove additional precaution signage after room cleaning and client's personal hygiene is complete (bath or shower),
- Monitor client for changes in clinical status and consider reinitiating additional precautions if necessary (e.g., new, or different rash, new or different cough).

*Isolation Clean – cleaning with additional stringent requirements as per the type of process, either Discharge/Transfer or Occupied. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is identified on door signage that staff must follow when cleaning as per the appropriate type of isolation cleaning.

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Hand Hygiene

If you have questions or are looking for hand hygiene resources refer to the [hand hygiene webpage](#) under Infection Prevention & Control or contact the Central Zone Hand Hygiene Project Manager at hand.hygiene@ahs.ca.

- Policy & Procedure, Guidelines, 4 Moments posters
- [Education and Training for Hand Hygiene](#)
 - Interactive Hand Hygiene Learning Module
 - Hand Health resources (i.e., FAQ, hand health video)
- [Leadership Toolkit](#) - the Hand Hygiene Leadership Toolkit was developed to help leaders establish team-based hand hygiene initiatives. The toolkit includes background information, resource links, staff engagement activities, and templates to help you inspire your team. For any staff who are interested in becoming a hand hygiene reviewer, have them refer to [Becoming a Hand Hygiene Reviewer](#)
- Read about the hand hygiene events hosted within the province
- [2021/2022 Annual Provincial Hand Hygiene Compliance Infographic](#)

Info for Health Professionals



- [Alcohol-based Hand Rub Recommendations](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Policy & Procedure](#)
- [Posters](#)
- [Leadership Toolkit](#)
- [Resource Links](#)

Hand Hygiene Campaigns



- [Hand Hygiene Heroes](#)
- [Clean Your Hands Day](#)
- [Global Handwashing Day](#)



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Education, training and posters for Personnel Protective Equipment

- Posters for Donning and Doffing of PPE
- [Modified Respiratory Precautions Continuing Care](#)
- Interactive Learning Module – *Personal Protective Equipment and You*

[Alberta Health Services' Provincial PPE Safety Coach Program](#) is a voluntary program, which adopts a peer-to-peer approach. PPE Safety Coaches will be available and accessible on each shift, as experts supporting frontline staff using a friendly, informal, and helpful approach to help staff select, don, and doff their PPE. If you have questions or would like to establish a PPE Safety Coach Program in your area, please contact the IPC Zone Project Manager for assistance at ppesafetycoach@ahs.ca.

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Equipment Cleaning

Refer to the table on this tab for reprocessing information. Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions for use. For information on cleaning particular equipment such as IT equipment and mechanical lifts, see [Best Practice Recommendations](#). In addition, the [IPC Community-Based Resource Service Manual](#) has further information for [equipment or supplies in the client home](#).

All equipment used between clients must be cleaned and disinfected after use. Stethoscopes also require a routine deep clean.

Additional resources:

- [Key Points for Ready-to-Use \(RTU\) Pre-moistened Disinfectant Wipes](#)
- [Products are on Health Canada's list of hard-surface disinfectants with evidence against COVID-19](#)
- [Cleaning & Storage of Loaner Equipment in Home Care Settings](#)
- [Storage of Clean and Sterile Supplies in Clinical Areas \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#). Supplies are removed from external corrugated cardboard and original shipping packages outside of the clean and sterile storage area before storing. Do not store original shipping packaging in clinic rooms, clean supply rooms, or anywhere where clean equipment or clean supplies are stored.
- [Patient care handouts](#) e.g., hand hygiene, MRSA to share with clients.
- [Single use/single client use items](#)- refer to manufacturer's instructions. In home care, there is an exception to the single use policy for [urinary catheter bags](#) and [intermittent catheters](#).
- [Transportation of Dangerous Goods \(TDG\) | Insite \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)
 - TDG - Class 6.2 Infectious Substances
 - [Lab Specimens](#) - For those workers who may be transporting the following via ground: blood, urine, sputum, stool and/or swabs for the purpose of diagnosis, research, investigational activities, disease treatments and prevention additional education is available via [MyLearningLink](#).
 - Search 'TDG' for the Class 6.2 Infectious Substances course. The target audience for this 40-minute online course + quiz is workers in Home Care and Public Health (clinics for STI, CD, TB, Healthy Beginnings, etc.).

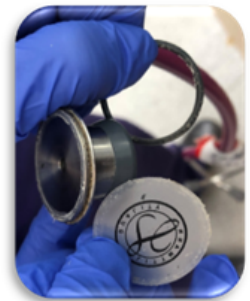
Deep Clean for Stethoscopes

Perform a deep clean on a regular basis or when visibly soiled.

Remove the diaphragm from the rim and clean the parts in soapy water or wipe with a 70% alcohol swab or RTU Wipe. Earbuds can be removed from the ear tubes for thorough cleaning.

Dry all parts and surfaces thoroughly before reassembling the stethoscope.

For more detailed information on cleaning refer to the manufacturer's instructions.





Outbreak Management

Outbreak resources <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/medstaff/czmoh.aspx>

Early recognition of unusual clusters of illness and swift actions in response are essential for effective management of outbreaks. Communicable Disease Control (CDC) or Environmental Public Health (EPH) are available if an outbreak is suspected.

This provincial IPC webpage has supporting documents to help prevent the spread of infection.

The screenshot shows the 'Outbreak Management' page on the Alberta Health Services website. The page is titled 'Outbreak Management' under the 'Infection Prevention & Control' section. It features a navigation menu at the top with options like 'ABOUT AHS', 'FIND HEALTHCARE', 'INFORMATION FOR', 'CAREERS', 'NEWS', 'AHS IN MY ZONE', and 'ENGAGE'. Below the navigation, there are sections for 'Guides for Outbreak Prevention & Control' and 'Support Materials for Outbreaks'. A blue arrow points from the 'Guides for Outbreak Prevention & Control' section to a detailed view of the 'Notifiable Disease & Outbreak Management' page.

[Outbreak Management | Alberta Health Services](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/medstaff/czmoh.aspx)

Notifiable Disease & Outbreak Management

Communicable Disease Control

Under the authority of the Medical Officer of Health, the program is responsible to prevent and control communicable diseases (CD) that are defined as Notifiable, under the Communicable Disease Regulations of the Public Health Act of Alberta.

Refer to Notice of Change under each of the following topics for a summary of the latest changes and additions.

Communicable Disease Control
[Learn more](#) about CDC at AHS.

Select a Topic

All Resources	Acute Care	Child Care Facilities
Correctional Centres	LTC, DSL and Hospice Sites	Non-Designated Supportive Living
Schools	Shelter Sites	

Showing 1 to 7 of 7 entries. Show 10 entries

[Notifiable Disease & Outbreak Management | Alberta Health Services](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/medstaff/czmoh.aspx)

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Quick Links

Emerging Issues

Disease & Condition Tables:

- [Acute care](#)
- [Continuing Care](#)

Point of Care:

- [Point of Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\)](#)

Emerging Issues
Infection Prevention & Control

As new infections and diseases emerge in our health care settings, changes to standard Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practices may be required. These current and past issues highlight the IPC resources created to manage these special cases.

Jump to topic:

- [Monkey Pox](#)
- [COVID-19](#)
- [Measles](#)
- [SARI - Severe Acute Respiratory Infections \(MERS-CoV\)](#)
- [IPC Tools for Disaster Management](#)
- [Viral Hemorrhagic Fever \(VHF\) / Ebola](#)

[Emerging Issues | Alberta Health Services](#)

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COVID-19 guidance documents are located on insite

- [COVID-19 Aerosol-Generating Medical Procedure Guidance Tool | Alberta Health Services](#)

COVID-19 Resources for AHS Staff & Health Professionals

To use the sortable / searchable table below, you may use a drop down menu to sort the results, or use the search bar to type in a keyword. [See instructions.](#)

The "Date Posted" field in the table reflects the last date posted.

Sort by Document Type:

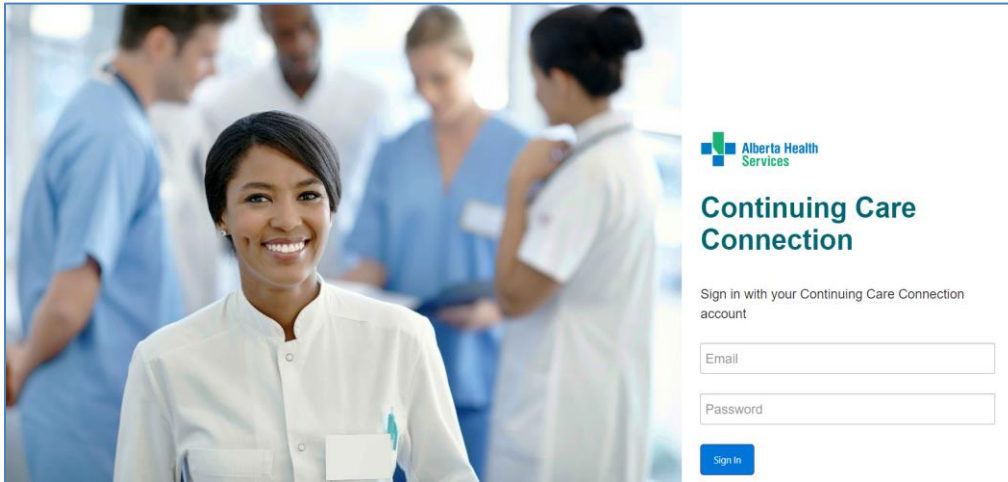
Info For: [Filter >](#) [Clear >](#)

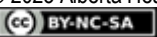
Search: Show entries

Date Posted	Title	
2022-07-04	Guidelines for Continuous Mask and Eye Protection Use in Home Care & Congregate Living Settings	Personal Protective Equipment; Infection Prevention and Control; Guidance
2022-03-23	IPC Recommendations PPE Table for Assessment Centres during COVID-19	Infection Prevention and Control; Guidance; Assessment; Personal Protective Equipment

Continuing Care Connections

You can access resources through Continuing Care Connections – [Infection Prevention & Control | Continuing Care Connection \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#). You will require an account to access.



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