

Reference Guide to Infection Prevention and Control Information Home and Community Care Managers and Staff

Central Zone Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

The Infection Control Professionals (ICPs) supporting Home and Community Care are available Monday through Friday from 0800-1615h (excluding holidays). Contact information can be accessed via the [Central Zone IPC](#) webpage. If you require further information, please email ipccenzadmin@ahs.ca to have your request forwarded to the appropriate individual. Note: this email is monitored twice daily.

IPC consultation

Contact your ICP for consultation on infection control issues including:

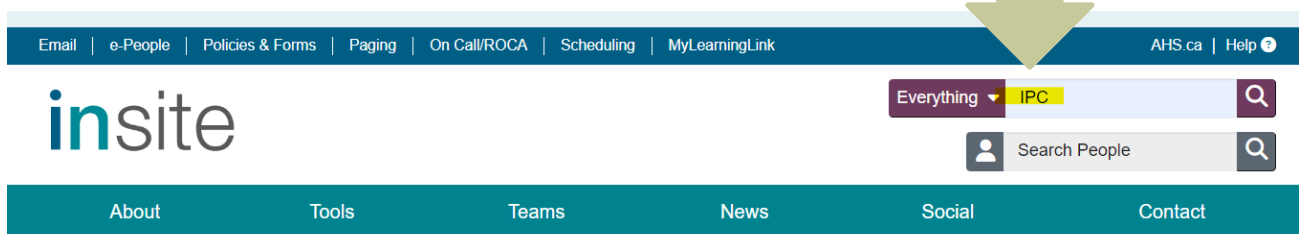
- Appropriateness of additional precautions for clients including:
 - Management for clients with in-clinic visits when infection control is a concern.
 - Management for clients in congregate living with respect to IPC (e.g., client ambulation while on additional precautions).
 - Application and discontinuation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

The intent of this resource is to guide staff to IPC related information. This document will be located on the [Central Zone tab](#).



Let's take a tour through our document.

To access the main IPC webpage search IPC:



In the next screen shot you must choose if you want to go to our [Central Zone webpage](#) or the [Provincial IPC webpage](#).

In this document we are going to walk you through the provincial pathway first then Central Zone.

For more information contact: ipccenzadmin@ahs.ca

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Home > Teams > Infection Prevention & Control

Infection Prevention & Control

IPC is dedicated to the prevention of health-care associated infections.

To support best practice in Infection Prevention and Control, IPC resources are available to all AHS staff, physicians and partner organizations on the [AHS external website](#).

Quick Reference

- [CSA Standards & Guidelines](#)
- [Hand Hygiene](#)
- [Provincial Contacts](#)
- [Provincial PPE Safety Coach Program](#)
- [Resource manual, training video now available](#)

Infection Prevention & Control

North Contacts & Resources

Edmonton Contacts & Resources

Central Contacts & Resources

Calgary Contacts & Resources

Click on this link to access zone resources and zone IPC contact list.

Click on this link to access provincial resources.



Access [provincial resources](#) from the [yellow highlighted link](#).

Click on each box for more information.

Check out the Quick Links, Resources & Topics and Related Programs on the far-right side of the page. Listed below are 2 examples.

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

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Infection Prevention & Control



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](#)



| 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 t 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 influenza (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 | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Discontinuing precautions

To determine if discontinuing precautions is appropriate:

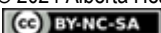
- Refer to the [Continuing Care IPC Resource Manual Diseases and Conditions Table](#) or [Community-based Services Resource Manual](#).
- Consult CDC for guidance during outbreaks or your Home Care ICP for guidance in other situations.

Once precautions are discontinued:

- Arrange for laundering of soiled clothing, sling and bedding as per site practices.
- Remove additional precaution signage after room isolation clean 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).

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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. A couple examples are:

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

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

- Tips for setting up isolation carts

See the example below for navigating the provincial Best Practice Recommendations.

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

Sort by Document Type
See all

Search: Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries (filtered from entries)

| Document Title | Prac |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Selection and Management of Isolation Carts | Equipment Selection & Process |
| Sputum Specimen Collection | Patient Care |



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 [Become a Hand Hygiene Reviewer](#) page.
- Read about the hand hygiene events hosted within the province
- [2022/2023 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](#)

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Infection Prevention & Control



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Education, training and posters for Personal Protective Equipment

- Posters for Donning and Doffing of PPE
- 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.



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.

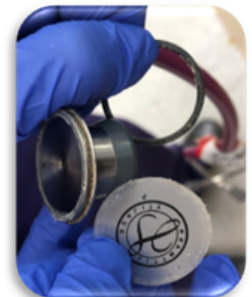
Deep Clean for Stethoscopes

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.



Check out these provincial resources:

- [Key Points for Ready-to-Use \(RTU\) Pre-moistened Disinfectant Wipes](#)
- [New Products and Technology](#)
- [Storage of Clean and Sterile Supplies in Clinical Areas](#) - 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](#).

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- [Transportation of Dangerous Goods \(TDG\)](#)
 - 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.).



[Outbreak management](#)

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.

Select a Topic

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| All Resources | Acute Care | Child Care Facilities |
| Correctional Centres | Continuing Care Homes | Supportive Living Accommodations |
| Schools | Shelter Sites | |

Search: Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries (filtered from 7 total entries) Show entries

Supportive Living Accommodations
(formerly Non-Designated Supportive Living Sites)

Guide

- [Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Supportive Living Accommodations](#)
- [Notice of Change](#)

Outbreak Prevention Tools

- [Outbreak Prevention Checklist](#)
- [Surveillance Case Tracking Sheet](#)
- [Advanced Prescriptions for Oseltamivir \(Tamiflu\)](#)
- [Outbreak Antiviral Prophylaxis in Supportive Living Accommodation and Continuing Care Homes Type B Site](#)

Outbreak Management Tools


- [Respiratory Outbreak Checklist](#)
- [Gastrointestinal Outbreak Checklist](#)
- [Visiting During Respiratory Illness Outbreaks](#)

Risk Assessment

- [Risk Assessment Matrix to Determine MOH Pre-Approval](#)
- [Risk Assessment Worksheet](#)

Quick Links

- [IPC Risk Assessment](#)
- [Outbreak Spotlight Poster](#)
(also available in: [Traditional Chinese](#))
- [Contact and Droplet Precautions](#)
- [Contact Precautions](#)



Search

Emerging Issues | Alberta Health Services

As new infections and diseases emerge in our health care settings, changes to standard Infection Prevention and Control practices may be required.

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

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 patient from acquire healthcare associa [More >](#)

Emerging Issues
Infection Prevention & Control

As new infections and disease 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](#)



Lastly, our tour takes us to the [zone resources](#) (green highlight) and how you can access them.

Infection Prevention & Control

- North Contacts & Resources
- Edmonton Contacts & Resources
- Central Contacts & Resources**
- Calgary Contacts & Resources

Click on this link to access zone resources and zone IPC contact list.

Check out this resource: [Cleaning & Storage of Loaner Equipment in Home Care Settings](#)



walking tour icon created by Smashicons-FlatIcon

Snapshots taken Aug 2024

Zones
Infection Prevention & Control

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

Clostridioides difficile Infection (CDI) Management

- [Checklist for Suspect or Confirmed CDI](#)
- [Stool Chart/Bowel Record 2016 Sample Form 20404 - Order from DATA Communications](#)
- [Tiered Management of CDI in Acute Care](#)
- [AHS Provincial Contact Precautions: Sporicidal Clean](#) (Poster)

Outbreak Management

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

Patients with Diarrhea Management Tools

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

IPC Resources

- [Manager / Charge Nurse Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [Transportation of Contaminated Medical Devices](#)
- [Isolation Key Points](#)
- [Cleaning & Storage of Loaner Equipment in Home Care Settings](#)
- [Reference Guide: Contracted Provider & Non-Designated Supportive Living Sites](#)
- [Reference Guide: Home Care Managers & Staff](#)
- [Water Release Quick Reference](#)
- [Pre-Construction Planning Guide](#)
- [Respiratory Illness Management in AHS LTC/DSL/Hospice Settings](#)

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