The Infection Control department is staffed Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 0800-1615. For urgent issues that need addressing after hours, contact RAAPID. Public Health is available if an outbreak is suspected. Outbreak resources [https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/medstaff/czmoh.aspx](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/medstaff/czmoh.aspx)

Accessing IPC Resources can be done in one of two ways. Any pathway you take will get you to IPC Webpage. Once you get to the IPC Webpage you must decide if you want Zone information or Provincial information.

The following snapshot shows you the two options to find IPC resources:
The following snapshot shows you how to navigate the IPC Webpage:

Create a Shortcut to the Desktop

1. Right click on the IPC webpage
2. Select create shortcut
3. Say yes to this message …

For more information contact
ipcsurvstdsadmin@ahs.ca
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IPC Consultation

As manager/charge nurse, you are often the primary point of contact for your Infection Control Professional (ICP). You and your staff may contact your ICP for consultation for infection control issues including:

- Appropriateness of additional precautions for patients/residents include:
  - Specific care plans with respect to IPC (e.g. patient ambulation while on additional precautions);
  - Screening for patients with a positive ARO (MRSA, VRE, CRO);
  - Application and discontinuation of additional precautions.

- Education on related IPC topics
- Determining and managing preventive measures for construction and renovation projects
- Consultation with other departments as it pertains to activities on your unit (e.g. Environmental Services, FM&E, MDR)
- Consultation with site manager/unit manager to complete the Site Practice Review
- Contact Workplace Health and Safety with questions related to staff illness and/or working restrictions [http://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/whs.asp](http://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/whs.asp)
- Patient Exposure to Blood & Body Fluids - [https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page15704.aspx](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page15704.aspx)
  - Contact WHS for Staff Risk Assessment Blood & Body Fluid Exposure [https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-20443.pdf](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-20443.pdf)

IPC On-Call

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), in the North, Central and South zones will commence an IPC after-hours on-call service. This service is to support AHS programs with urgent IPC issues. Rural zone IPC On-Call can be contacted after regular business hours and on weekends/holiday through:

**RAAPID North 1-800-282-9911 or RAAPID South 1-800-661-1700**

This on-call service is based on the IPC philosophy to act as facilitators to reduce the risk of transmission of infection within health care. IPC will collaborate with healthcare providers to promote IPC best practice in the context of patient and family centered care. The following key messages summarize the Rural zones IPC On-Call service:

**Key Messages:**

- **IPC on-call service is for urgent issues, not for routine consultation:**
  - IPC resources are readily available on the IPC webpage to guide patient management [https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page6410.aspx](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page6410.aspx).
  - Non-urgent issues should be addressed as usual by contacting your site Infection Control Professional (ICP) on the next business day.

- **Examples of urgent situations may include:** major water release, MDR sterilization failure, building system failures with IPC implications (example sterile core, OR, MDR, airborne isolation rooms), outbreak, suspect viral hemorrhagic fever.

- IPC providing on-call will be offsite and will not have access to Netcare or other patient information systems; therefore, will not be able to manage day-to-day patient management (i.e., ARO results and removing additional precautions/clearing of an ARO).
• Infection Control Professionals (ICPs) at acute care sites review patients on isolation regularly and will continue to provide direction to the nursing staff as appropriate prior to a weekend.

• For calls related to potential ILI/GI outbreaks, IPC will provide guidance to units to prevent further transmission based on zone-specific outbreak management guidelines found on the AHS IPC webpages. There is no change to outbreak reporting or management.

• Clinical management and treatment questions related to infectious diseases should be directed by the attending physician as per current zone processes, which may include to the appropriate Infectious Disease Physician service via RAAPID.

• If staff suspect they have been exposed to a communicable disease or blood and body fluids at work, they are to notify Workplace Health and Safety.

Additional Precautions Information

• Look for additional precautions information sheets in the online Resource Manual https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page6854.aspx

• Consider printing additional precautions information sheet and include in patient/resident’s care plan

• Use an N95 respirator during aerosol-generating medical procedures with patients on Droplet or Contact/Droplet precautions

• Obtain IPC consultation before cohorting patients on additional precautions https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page15147.aspx

• ARO flags are located in Meditech on the EMR summary page under the indicator tab

• IPC Considerations for Immunocompromised Patients http://www.ahsweb.ca/ipc/considerations-immunocomp-patients-guide-z0-rm-ac

Applying Additional Precautions

To determine if additional precautions are appropriate:

• Perform a Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) http://www.ahsweb.ca/ipc/pcra-routine-practices-z0-rp-ac.pdf

• Complete the ARO Admission Screening tool (form 18931) - acute care only

Use the IPC Resource Manual Diseases and Conditions Table:

Acute Care: http://www.ahsweb.ca/ipc/diseases-conditions-table-z0-rm-ac

Continuing Care: http://www.ahsweb.ca/ipc/resource-manual-z0-rm-cc

  o Consider patient symptoms (e.g., GI, ILI etc.)
  o Refer to the patient’s diagnosis and/or lab reports (e.g., Clostridium difficile, meningitis, etc.)
Patient Ambulation While on Additional Precautions

Patients on Additional Precautions Leaving Room or Bed Space

Assess each patient individually for the following 3Cs:

Cognitive: able to follow instructions
Cooperative: willing to follow instructions to wear clean attire, perform hand hygiene and not access public areas
Continent: all drainage and secretions can be contained

Patients leave room or bed space for essential purposes only, exceptions require IPC consult

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Droplet</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Contact &amp; Droplet</th>
<th>Airborne</th>
<th>Airborne &amp; Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient’s door may remain open</td>
<td>Patient’s door may remain open</td>
<td>Patient’s door may remain open</td>
<td>Patient’s door must remain closed</td>
<td>Patient’s door must remain closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Before patients leave their room, educate or assist them to:</td>
<td>• Before patients leave their room, educate or assist them to:</td>
<td>• Before patients leave their room, educate or assist them to:</td>
<td>• Before patients leave their room, educate or assist them to:</td>
<td>• Before patients leave their room, educate or assist them to:</td>
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<tr>
<td>o perform hand hygiene</td>
<td>o perform hand hygiene</td>
<td>o perform hand hygiene</td>
<td>o perform hand hygiene</td>
<td>o perform hand hygiene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o dress in clean clothing</td>
<td>o put on a procedure mask</td>
<td>o contain drainage with dressings and incontinence products</td>
<td>o contain drainage with dressings and incontinence products</td>
<td>o contain drainage with dressings and incontinence products</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discontinuing Precautions

To determine if discontinuing precautions is appropriate:

- Consult the IPC Resource Manuals or contact your ICP for guidance.
- Inform your ICP if a patient has three consecutive negative antibiotic resistant organism (MRSA, VRE) results. If your ICP can validate the swab results, the patient may come off isolation.
- IPC needs to be consulted on the removal of the ARO status.

Once precautions are discontinued:

- Ensure Environmental Services performs a discharge/transfer/isolation clean of patient environment.
- Bath or shower patient in conjunction with environmental room cleaning.
- Arrange for laundering of dirty clothing. Ask family to take home personal items that cannot be cleaned or disinfected.
- Discard facility-supplied personal care products (creams, lotions, pressure relief devices) and replace with new product.
- Ensure Environmental Services has removed additional precaution signage after the environmental cleaning and patient’s personal hygiene is complete (bath or shower).
Monitor patient for changes in clinical status and consider initiating additional precautions if necessary (e.g., new wounds in a previously positive ARO patient, new or different rash, new or different cough)

**Clostridium difficile Infection**

If you suspect a patient has a *C. difficile* infection:

- Initiate CDI Checklist - [http://www.ahsweb.ca/ipc/cdi-chklist-zone-z3-cz-cdi-toolkit](http://www.ahsweb.ca/ipc/cdi-chklist-zone-z3-cz-cdi-toolkit)
- Document frequency and consistency of stool according to the Bristol Stool Chart.
- Refer to Central Zone CDI Toolkit (Insite under the Central Zone tab) to determine if a stool sample should be sent to the lab.
- Place patient on additional precautions (Contact Sporicidal).
- Initiate the form *Clostridium difficile* Infection Patient Care Orders (form 19867).

**PPE**

**Education and training for Personnel Protective Equipment**

- Posters for Donning and Doffing of PPE
- Interactive Learning Module – *Personal Protective Equipment and You*

**Hand Hygiene**

Site-based reviewers are designated by the site manager to complete hand hygiene reviews at the site. Sites with programs (i.e. Cancer Care, Renal Services, Lab) will assign a reviewer for that program.

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.

**Info for Health Professionals**

- Policy & Procedure, Guidelines, 4 Moments posters, etc.

**Education and training for Hand Hygiene**

- Interactive Hand Hygiene Learning Module
- Hand Health resources (i.e., FAQ, hand health video)

**Reviews and Reports**

- Training requirements for Hand Hygiene Reviewers and Advanced users
- How to purchase an iPad

**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.
Posters used in Central Zone – contact your local ICP for a copy to post in your facility

As of November 1, 2019, Transportation of Contaminated Medical Devices was sent to Web Comm for posting to the Central Zone tab.

As of November 1, 2019, Setting-Up Isolation without Walls in a Shared Space was sent to Web Comm for posting to the Central Zone Tab.