

Airborne and Contact Precautions in Corrections Health

In addition to [Routine Practices](#)

Routine Practices help prevent the spread of infections. These practices apply when interacting with patients whether in Alberta Health Services (AHS), Corrections Healthcare areas in Correctional Centres when delivering healthcare services. Use Routine Practices for every patient¹, every time, regardless of their diagnosis or infectious status.

Icon/Symbol	Details
	Accommodation - Negative pressure single room, anteroom (if possible) and private toilet. - Facilities without negative pressure cells to contact IPC or Zone Medical Officer of Health (MOH) or designate for management of suspected or confirmed cases that require Airborne and Contact precautions. Airborne and Contact Precautions sign visible on entry to cell and communication provided to all staff including Healthcare & Correctional Services Division (CSD) - Keep cell door(s) closed at all times (except when entering or leaving the cell).
	Hand Hygiene - Perform hand hygiene using alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and water as described in routine practices. - Use plain soap and water when: - hands are visibly soiled and - caring for patients with diarrhea and/or vomiting. - Perform hand hygiene: - before accessing and putting on gown, gloves and fit-test N95 respirator - after taking off gloves and after taking off gown and - after taking off N95 respirator. - Educate patients, visitors and CSD staff on how and when to use hand hygiene products.
	Personal Protective Equipment: N95 Respirators - Staff with known immunity to a confirmed disease (e.g., chickenpox) are not required to wear an N95 respirator when entering the cell or providing care to a patient with a confirmed case of that specific disease. If non-immune individuals must enter the cell or provide care, an N95 respirator must be worn. - If an airborne organism is suspected, all individuals must wear an N95 respirator until the patient's infectious etiology is ruled out. - For disease specific immunity information please refer to the Continuing Care IPC Resource Manual Diseases and Conditions Table or contact Workplace Health Safety. - For disease specific immunity information, please refer to the IPC Resource Manual Diseases and Conditions Table or contact Workplace Health Safety. - Staff must be properly fit-tested for N95 respirators in compliance with CSA Standard Z94.4-02. - A seal-check must be done each time an N95 respirator is worn to ensure there is an adequate seal between the mask and the user's face. - Those who are not fit-tested for N95 respirators should be shown how to put them on

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	and take them off properly and how to seal-check the respirator. • Perform hand hygiene before accessing and putting on and immediately after taking off N95 respirator. • Proper N95 use includes: ○ putting it on before entering the patient's cell ○ molding the metal bar over the nose ○ ensuring an airtight seal on the face, over top of the nose and under the chin ○ leaving the cell and changing the respirator when it becomes moist ○ removing the N95 respirator after leaving the patient's cell and ○ touching only the elastics when removing. (Refer to the AHS Donning and Doffing PPE posters for details on careful removal and disposal of gloves).
	Personal Protective Equipment: Gowns • Wear a new gown to enter patient cell or when patient enters treatment area when: ○ providing direct care (e.g., IV or oral medication administration, dressing changes, care of openwounds/lesion, bathing, changing clothing or toileting) ○ having any contact with items in the patient's cell (including gathering and handling specimens) and ○ cleaning any areas in the patient's cell. • Put on gown before gloves; gloves should cover the gown cuffs. • Do not wear a gown outside patient's cell or treatment area unless carrying contaminated items or assisting with patient transfer to another area. Clean gowns are required for staff before departure for patient transfer. • Remove soiled gowns as soon as possible. • Take off gloves and perform hand hygiene before taking off gown. • Do not reuse gowns. • After removing gown: ○ place in waste container if disposable ○ place in linen bag if reusable and ○ perform hand hygiene. (Refer to the AHS Donning and Doffing PPE posters for details on correct removal and disposal of gowns).

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	Personal Protective Equipment: Gloves - Wear new non-sterile gloves to enter patient cell or when patient enters treatment area when: - providing direct care (e.g., IV or oral medication administration, dressing changes, care of openwounds/lesion) - having any contact with items in the patient's cell (including gathering and handling specimens) and - cleaning any areas in the patient's cell. - Gloves are single-use. Use only once, then dispose of them immediately after use. - Put on gown first and then put on gloves after; gloves should cover gown cuffs. - Change gloves between care activities for the same patient (e.g., when moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site). - Do not wear gloves outside patient's cells or bedspaces or treatment areas unless carrying contaminated items or assisting with patient transfer to another facility or area. Clean gloves are required before departure for patient transfer. - Never wash disposable gloves or use ABHR on any gloves. - Take off gloves and perform hand hygiene before taking off gown. - Discard used gloves in a waste container. - Perform hand hygiene. (Refer to the AHS Donning and Doffing PPE posters for details on careful removal and disposal of gloves).
	Patient Movement Outside Cell and Transfer (Leaving cell) - Patients should not leave their cell; exceptions require IPC or Zone MOH/designate consultation. - If patients must leave their cell for essential purposes, instruct them on or assist them with: - performing hand hygiene - putting on a procedure/surgical mask and - ensuring dressings and incontinence products are able to contain any drainage. - Transport Staff should assess the risk of spreading infection and choose clean personal protective equipment (PPE) if necessary, to handle the patient during transport and at the transport destination, using the IPC Risk Assessment (IPC RA). Transporting staff must remove PPE (if worn) and perform hand hygiene at destination. (Refer to the AHS Donning & Doffing PPE posters for details on correct removal & disposal of N95 respirators) - Notify the receiving area of the need for an Airborne and Contact Precautions sign before departure. - Patients required to attend court while on Airborne and Contact Precautions require IPC or Zone MOH/designate or TB Services consultation. (Refer to the AHS Donning & Doffing PPE posters for details on correct removal & disposal of N95 respirators).

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	Environmental Cleaning • Occupied cell: clean room as per routine practices, door must remain closed: ○ Cleaning staff (inmate and contracted) must wear respiratory protection as directed in the “Personal Protective Equipment: N95 Respirators” section of this information sheet or on the Airborne and Contact Precautions sign. • After patient discharge/transfer or when Airborne Precautions are discontinued: ○ keep the room vacant and the door closed for a minimum four (4) hours to allow airborne particles to clear. Exceptions require IPC or Zone MOH/designate consultation ○ if staff must enter before 4 hours have passed, an N95 respirator must be worn and the door must remain closed and ○ clean room as per existing facility cleaning practices. • If patient must attend clinic or other essential appointment, they must come directly from their cell masked, be cared for/attend appointment and return immediately to their cell. In this case, the 4 hour air clearance time is not required in the clinic or appointment area.
	Visitors • Encourage visitors (family, friends, lawyers, contracted staff, clergy, etc.) to perform hand hygiene. • Instruct visitors how to put on and take off gown and gloves if they are in close contact with patient. • Show visitors how to wear and seal-check an N95 respirators Instructions for Putting on an N95 Respirator. • Instruct visitors to keep the door closed at all times, except when entering or leaving the room.
¹ Patients are all persons who receive or have requested healthcare or services. The terms “client” or “resident” may also be used, depending on the healthcare setting.	