

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 - Single cell and bathroom recommended whenever possible. Contact Precautions sign visible on entry to cell or bedspace and communication provided to all staff including Healthcare & Correctional Services Division (CSD) entering cell. - Cell door may remain open if necessary.
	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, mask and eye protection and - after taking off gloves and after taking off gown, mask and eye protection. - Educate patients, visitors and CSD staff on how and when to use hand hygiene products.
	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 open wounds/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 AHS Donning and Doffing PPE posters for details on correct removal and disposal of gowns).

Icon/Symbol	Details
	Personal Protective Equipment: Gloves - Wear new non-sterile gloves to enter patient cell or bedspace or when patient enters treatment area when: - providing direct care (e.g., IV or oral medication administration, dressing changes, care of open wounds/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. - Gloves are single-use. Use only once, then dispose of them immediately after use. - Put on gown first and then gloves after; gloves should cover gown cuffs. - Change gloves between care activities for the same patient (e.g., when moving from a contaminated bodysite to a clean body site). - Do not wear gloves outside patient cells or bedspaces 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 AHS Donning and Doffing PPE posters for details on removal and disposal of gloves).
	Handling Patient Care Items and Equipment - Use disposable care equipment when possible - Dedicate reusable equipment to a single patient until Contact Precautions are discontinued (e.g., thermometers, blood pressure equipment). - If reusable equipment cannot be dedicated to a single patient, clean and disinfect it between patients. - Do not share items (e.g., puzzles, books, newspapers) that cannot be cleaned and disinfected. - Limit the number of times AHS and CSD staff leave and enter the cell during a period of care (i.e., hold laundry and garbage within cell and take all items out in one trip). If AHS and CSD staff leave and re- enter the cell during a period of care they must doff used PPE on exit and don new PPE for re-entry. - Double bag linen and garbage only if leaking. - Clean shared tubs and showers immediately after use as per facility procedures. - When Contact Precautions are discontinued, discard single-use care equipment, reprocess reusable care items, and change bed linens. Launder soiled patient clothing and any unused linens in the patient's cell. - Used meal trays and beverage containers and dishes do not require special handling. Place on the dietary cart or in an area designated for used dishes.

Icon/Symbol	Details
	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 or assist them with: - performing hand hygiene - putting on clean clothing if contaminated 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. Notify the receiving area of need for Contact Precautions before departure.
	Environmental Cleaning - All high touch surfaces in patient's cell, including bathrooms and commodes, must be cleaned at least daily. - Use AHS or CSD approved products and procedures. - When Contact Precautions are discontinued: - clean cell as per existing facility cleaning practices and - clean touch surfaces of patient's ambulation aids. - Refer to facility Environmental Services cleaning schedules and practices. - Notify facility Environmental Services when Contact Precautions are discontinued to request an isolation cleaning of cell.
	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.
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.	