

Droplet 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 Droplet 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 and - Close door if an aerosol-generating medical procedure is in progress.
	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 and gloves and - after taking off gloves and after taking off mask and eye protection. - Educate patients and CSD staff on how and when to use hand hygiene products.
	Personal Protective Equipment: Masks and Eye Protection - All staff and visitors must wear a procedure mask and eye protection within 2 meters of the patient. - Perform hand hygiene before accessing and putting on and immediately after taking off mask and eye protection. - Proper mask use includes: - ensuring a snug fit over the nose and under the chin - molding the metal bar over the nose (AHS Staff masks) - wearing the mask with the moisture-absorbing side closest to the face - removing mask when leaving patient cell or bed space or when patient leaves treatment area (do not wear around neck) - changing mask when it becomes moist and - touching only the elastic or ties when removing. - Prescription glasses do not meet Workplace Health and Safety regulations for eye protection. - Clean and disinfect reusable eye protection after each use. - Discard single-use masks and eye protection in waste container. (Refer to the AHS Donning and Doffing PPE posters for details on correct removal and disposal of masks and eye protection).

Icon/Symbol	Details
	Handling Patient Care Items and Equipment • Use disposable care equipment when possible. • Dedicate reusable equipment to a single patient until Droplet 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 Droplet 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 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.
	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, instruct or assist them with: ◦ performing hand hygiene ◦ putting on a procedure/surgical mask ◦ 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 Infection Prevention and Control Risk Assessment. Transporting staff must remove PPE (if worn) and perform hand hygiene at destination. • Notify the receiving area of need for Droplet 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 facility approved products and procedures. • When Droplet 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 Droplet Precautions are discontinued to request an isolation cleaning of cell.

Icon/Symbol	Details
	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 put on and take off masks and eye protection.
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.	