





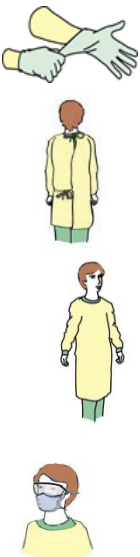








Interim IPC Recommendations COVID-19

In addition to **Routine Practices**

	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>Contact and Droplet Precautions</p> <p>For current case definitions of COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-ncov-case-def.pdf • Refer to Public Health Agency of Canada for ongoing updates.
	<p>Affected Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to World Health Organization for information on affected areas. https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019
	<p>Accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As quickly as possible – place patient in a single room and implement Contact and Droplet Precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Single room with hard walls and door–contact Infection Prevention and Control if not available. ○ For Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ place patient in a room with hard walls and a door; ensure the door is closed; ▪ ask visitors and non-essential staff to leave the room; ▪ if available, place patient in Airborne Isolation Room (AIR); ▪ See the Respiratory (ILI) Algorithm for a list of AGMP; • Contact and Droplet Precautions sign visible on entry to room or bedspace. • If Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures are performed, additional PPE is also required.
	<p>Asymptomatic Patients (self-isolating prior to admission)</p> <p>Emergency and Inpatient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As quickly as possible, place patient in a single room and implement Contact and Droplet Precautions + Routine Practices. • All other recommendations apply. <p>Outpatient/Ambulatory Care Departments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ don new mask at healthcare facility entrance and wear throughout entire time in healthcare facility; ○ change mask if it becomes moist; ○ not wear the same mask that was worn from home to healthcare facility. • Perform hand hygiene at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ entrance to healthcare facility, clinic, and clinic room; ○ exit clinic room, clinic, healthcare facility. • Healthcare providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine Practices
	<p>Medical Officer of Health Notification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOH will be notified by APL of presumptive and confirmed positive results. • Contact tracing and follow-up will be done through MOH. • AHS Updates

	<p>Laboratory Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOH's approval is no longer required prior to specimen collection or testing. • Refer to lab bulletin for testing, specimen handling and notification for laboratory testing. • Alberta Precision Laboratories will coordinate testing requests. • Only one swab needs to be collected for both routine respiratory panel testing and COVID-19 investigation. Rapid influenza testing may require a separate swab.
	<p>Hand Hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform hand hygiene using alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and water as described in Routine Practices. • Educate patients and visitors about how and when to use hand hygiene products.
	<p>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Gowns, Gloves and Facial Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear new PPE to enter patient room or bedspace. Healthcare workers are to wear contact and droplet PPE even if the patient is wearing a mask. • Do not wear PPE outside a patient room or bedspace unless transporting contaminated items. • Remove soiled PPE as soon as possible. • Gloves are single-use. Use only once, then dispose of immediately after use. • Change gloves between care activities for the same patient (e.g., when moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site). Sterile gloves are for sterile procedures. • For more detailed information on glove use, see Glove Use and Selection: IPC Best Practice Guidelines or Proper Glove Use as part of Personal Protective Equipment. • Prescription glasses do not meet Workplace Health and Safety regulations for eye protection. • Proper wearing of masks includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ensuring a snug fit over the nose and under the chin; ○ changing mask when it becomes moist. • Refer to the AHS Donning and Doffing PPE posters for details on careful removal and disposal of PPE. Do not reuse or disinfect single-use PPE. Reusable PPE must be cleaned before reuse (launder gowns, disinfect eye protection). • Effective and appropriate use of PPE keep staff uniforms and clothing clean. Staff should change before leaving healthcare facility, and take soiled clothing home in a bag. Soiled uniforms/clothing do not need any special handling in the laundry, see Healthcare Attire Information Sheet.

	<p>N95 Respirators & Eye Protection use ONLY when Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures are performed. See the Respiratory (ILI) Algorithm for a list of AGMP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff and physicians require fit-testing for an N95 respirator. • Perform hand hygiene before putting on (donning) and immediately after taking off (doffing) N95 respirator. • Proper wearing of an N95 respirator includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ putting on the respirator before entering the patient's room; ○ moulding the metal bar over the nose; ○ ensuring an airtight seal on the face, over top of the nose and under the chin; ○ donning eye protection after N95 for AGMP; ○ leaving the room and changing the respirator when it becomes moist; ○ removing the respirator after leaving the patient's room by touching elastic only; ○ not wearing respirator around the neck. • Refer to the AHS Donning and Doffing PPE posters for details on careful removal and disposal of N95 respirators. Do not reuse or disinfect single-use PPE. Reusable PPE must be cleaned before reuse (launder gowns, disinfect eye protection).
	<p>Handling Patient Care Items and Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use disposable patient equipment when possible. • Dedicate re-useable equipment for single-patient use only and until discharge. • If reusable equipment cannot be dedicated for a single patient use, clean and disinfect it between patients. • Additional precaution rooms should contain a dedicated linen bag; double bag only if leaking. • Do not share items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected. • Used meal trays and dishes do not require special handling. Disposable dishes and utensils are not required. • Special handling of linen or waste is not required. General waste from patients on additional precautions is not biomedical waste.
	<p>Patient Ambulation Outside Room, Bedspace or Transfer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients should leave the room or bedspace for essential purposes only; exceptions require IPC consultation. • Use predetermined transport routes to minimize exposure for staff, other patients and visitor. • Before patients leave their room, educate or assist them to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ perform hand hygiene; ○ put on clean clothing or hospital gown/housecoat; ○ ensure dressings and incontinence products contain drainage; ○ put on a procedure/surgical mask. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ for pediatric patients who do not tolerate a mask, cover them with a blanket or have them cuddle with care provider. • Notify the receiving area, before departure, of the need for Contact and Droplet Precautions.

	<p>Environmental Cleaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Room surfaces and equipment cleaning/disinfection is required on a daily basis or more frequently if directed by IPC using AHS approved products and procedures. AHS approved disinfection products are effective against COVID-19. After discharge, transfer or discontinuation of contact and droplet precautions, clean room as per existing facility cleaning practices. Replace privacy curtains. Additional precaution signs should not be removed until both patient's personal hygiene and environmental cleaning have been completed.
	<p>Visitors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor Alert Poster visiting is restricted to essential only; symptomatic visitors are not allowed. Encourage visitors to perform hand hygiene and instruct family or visitors to wear masks and eye protection, When & How to Wear a Mask. Information on visiting is available here. Contact and Droplet Isolation Precautions Family/Visitor information is also available for visitors who must enter the room. Visitors should be advised to report any signs and symptoms of acute illness to Public Health/HealthLink. <p>All visitors to congregate living sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please follow Visitation in Congregate Living Sites and use the Visitor and Volunteer Screening Questionnaire to minimize risk to the residents.
	<p>Signs and Posters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact and Droplet Precautions Patient Symptom & Travel Risk Symptom Alert Poster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available here Cover Your Cough poster PPE Checklist: Contact and Droplet Precautions List of all COVID-19 related posters