COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus, 2019-nCoV) 
Interim IPC Recommendations

In addition to Routine Practices

Recommendations
Contact and Droplet Precautions
For current case definitions of COVID-19
- [https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/ assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-n cov-case-def.pdf](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-n cov-case-def.pdf)
- Refer to Public Health Agency of Canada for ongoing updates

Affected Areas
- Refer to World Health Organization for information on affected areas.

Accommodation
- As quickly as possible – place patient in a single room and implement Contact and Droplet Precautions
  - Single room with hard walls and door – contact Infection Prevention and Control if not available
  - Move to airborne isolation room/negative air pressure capable room if Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures is required.
  - See the Respiratory (ILI) Algorithm for a list of AGMP
- Contact and Droplet Precautions sign visible on entry to room or bed space.
- If Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures are performed additional PPE is also required.

Medical Officer of Health Notification
- Contact Medical Officer of Health (MOH).
- Contact tracing and follow-up will be done through MOH.

Laboratory Testing
- MOH approval is no longer required prior to specimen collection or testing.
- Refer to [lab bulletin](https://www.labbulletin.ca) 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 SARS-CoV 2.0 investigation.

Hand Hygiene
- 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.
### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Gowns, Gloves and Facial Protection
- Wear new PPE to enter patient room or bed space.
- Do not wear PPE outside a patient room or bed space 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:
  - 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 (laundry gowns, disinfect eye protection)

### N95 Respirators & Eye Protection
use **ONLY** when Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures are performed. See the [Respiratory (ILI) Algorithm](#) for a list of AGMP
- All staff and physicians require fit-testing for an N95 respirator.
- Perform [hand hygiene](#) before putting on and immediately after taking off N95 respirator.
- Proper wearing of a N95 respirator includes:
  - 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 (laundry gowns, disinfect eye protection)

### Handling Patient Care Items and Equipment
- Use disposable patient equipment when possible.
- Dedicate re-useable equipment for a single patient use only, 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.
### Patient Ambulation Outside Room, Bed Space or Transfer
- Patients should leave the room or bed space for **essential purposes only**, exceptions require IPC consultation.
- Use predetermined transport routes to minimize exposure for staff, other patients and visitors
- Before patients leave their room, educate or assist them to:
  - perform **hand hygiene**;
  - put on clean clothing or hospital gown/housecoat;
  - ensure dressings and incontinence products contain drainage;
  - put on a procedure/surgical mask.
  - 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](#).

### Environmental Cleaning
- 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 products that have Health Canada broad spectrum virucidal claims are effective against SARS-CoV 2.0.
- 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.

### Visitors
- [Visitor Alert Poster](#) Any acutely symptomatic individual should defer visit until symptoms resolve.
- Encourage visitors to perform **hand hygiene**.
- Instruct family or visitors to wear masks and eye protection.
- Contact and Droplet Isolation Precautions Family/Visitor information is an additional resource for visitors.

### Signs and Posters
- [Contact and Droplet Precautions](#)
- Travel Risk Symptom Alert Poster
  - [English](#)
  - [Traditional Chinese (translated)](#)
  - [Simplified Chinese (translated)](#)
- [Patient Symptoms Alert Poster](#)
- [Cover Your Cough poster](#)