

# Gastrointestinal Illness in Continuing Care

Does the individual have **new** onset of **diarrhea** and/or **vomiting** not related to changes in medication or diet?

\*\*Look for two or more episodes of diarrhea and/or vomiting or one episode of vomiting and diarrhea in a 24 hr. period that is new or unusual for the individual\*\* <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page6421.aspx>

Complete a **Infection Prevention and Control Risk Assessment (IPC RA)** before every contact. Assess the transmission risk between the individual, the task to be performed, and the environment.  
**Clean your hands** before and after PPE use.

Could my hands be exposed to blood and/or body fluids / contaminated items?

YES

Wear Non-Sterile Gloves



Could my clothing or skin become soiled from splashes/ sprays or contact with items contaminated with blood and/or body fluids?

YES

Wear Gown



Could my eyes or face or mucous membranes be splashed or sprayed with blood and/or body fluids?  
or  
Could I be within 2 meters of coughing or vomiting individual?

YES

Wear Facial Protection (Mask and Eye)



Place on **Contact** Precautions if only having diarrhea.

Place on **Droplet and Contact Precautions** if having vomiting.

## Focus on:

**IPC RA** – encourage everyone to think about contact with individual and choose appropriate personal protective equipment.

**Hand hygiene** – clean hands using soap and water, assist visitors with cleaning their hands.

**Monitor and assess** – others for symptoms and place on additional precautions and post outbreak signage.

**Instructing visitors** – on good visiting practices such as hand hygiene, limiting number of individuals they visit, not visiting if they are unwell.

**Increased frequency of cleaning & disinfection** – of individuals room and washroom is essential during outbreaks.

**Dedicate** – washroom, commode and equipment to individual.

**Contain** – if individual is incontinent, implement measures to contain stool.

Refer to the [Continuing Care Infection Prevention and Control Diseases and Conditions Table](#)