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**

Complete a **Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)** 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Could my hands be exposed to blood and/or body fluids / contaminated items?</th>
<th>Could my clothing or skin become soiled from splashes/sprays or contact with items contaminated with blood and/or body fluids?</th>
<th>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?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wear Non-Sterile Gloves</td>
<td>Wear Gown</td>
<td>Wear Facial Protection (Mask and Eye)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

**Focus on:**
- **PCRA** – 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**

For more information, contact **ipcsurvsstdadmin@ahs.ca**
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