

# Respiratory Illness

## Assessing the Need for Additional Precautions in Acute Care (Isolation)

- Does the individual have symptoms of respiratory illness?
- Does the individual have any one or more of the following new or worsening symptoms:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Difficulty breathing (Neonates: also consider apnea)
  - Increased O2 requirement or decreased O2 saturation
  - Sore throat/painful swallowing/hoarse voice
  - Runny nose/nasal congestion/sneezing
  - Fever/chills/rigors (Adult: higher than 37.8 C; Pediatrics: 38 C or higher (If sole symptom, should be reviewed with other symptoms, history, physical exam, etc.))
- For expanded symptoms of COVID-19 see the Communicable Disease (Respiratory) Initial or Daily Screening in Connect Care.

YES

**Contact and Droplet Precautions**

**Cohorting**

**Patient placement:**

- Single room with hard walls and door
- Review for Cohorting if single room not available

**For AGMP:**

- Single room with 4 walls and door only;
- Ensure door is closed;
- Use N95 + eye protection;
- Only essential staff in room.

If available, place patient in an airborne isolation room and refer to COVID-19 specific information and Interim Recommendations.

[Aerosol-Generating Medical Procedure Guidance Tool](#)

**Is tuberculosis suspected?**

- Cough AND
- Hemoptysis
  - Fever
  - night sweats
  - unintentional weight loss
  - or history of TB

YES

**AIRBORNE PRECAUTIONS**

- Put procedure mask on patient
  - Place patient in a single room with a closed door
- Management of Patients Requiring Airborne Isolation**
- Consult [TB Services](#) as needed
  - Notify IPC

NO

**Contact and Droplet Precautions**

Review any required additional precautions once diagnosis is confirmed  
**Acute Care Diseases and Conditions Table**

**ROUTINE PRACTICES**  
If communicable disease is ruled out

NO

**ROUTINE PRACTICES**

For further information refer to the Resource Manual on the Infection Prevention and Control Website: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page6854.aspx>



<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

For more information contact [ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca](mailto:ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca)

© 2024 Alberta Health Services. IPC

Original Date: May, 2018

Revised Date: November 25, 2024