

# Respiratory Illness in Continuing Care

Does the individual have symptoms\* of  
Viral Respiratory Illness (VRI)?

- Does the individual have any one or more of the following new or worsening symptoms:
    - Cough
    - Shortness of breath
    - Difficulty breathing
    - 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; (over age 65 fever may not be present) (If sole symptom, should be reviewed with other symptoms, history, physical exam, etc.)
- Symptoms may differ from viral respiratory outbreak case definitions.

YES

Use [Infection Prevention and Control  
Risk Assessment \(PC RA\)](#)  
and monitor for further symptoms.

Place individual on [Droplet and Contact](#) Precautions,  
encourage individual to remain in their room.

## Focus on:

- **IPC RA** – encourage everyone to think about contact with individual and choose appropriate personal protective equipment.
- **Hand hygiene** – encourage everyone to clean their hands frequently.
- **Respiratory hygiene** – encourage individuals to cover their cough/sneeze, use of tissue and hand hygiene.
- **Monitor and assess** – others for symptoms and place on additional precautions and post outbreak signage.
- **Instruct visitors** – on good practices such as, hand hygiene, limiting number of individuals they visit, not visiting if they are unwell.
- **Increased frequency of cleaning & disinfection** – of environment and equipment is essential during outbreaks.

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

### Aerosol Generating Procedures

The World Health Organization has determined that if a procedure causes air to travel at a high velocity over the respiratory mucosa and epithelium, there is a potential risk of the production of tiny aerosols.

An aerosol generating medical procedure is defined as any procedure on a patient that can induce the production of aerosols of various sizes including droplet nuclei.

Infection prevention and control of epidemic and pandemic prone acute respiratory diseases in health care WHO interim guidelines 2007: [https://www.who.int/csr/bioriskreduction/infection\\_control/publication/en/](https://www.who.int/csr/bioriskreduction/infection_control/publication/en/)

### **\*\*NOTE\*\* Aerosol Generating Medical Procedure (AGMP)**

Procedures in Continuing Care that should be considered AGMP's including but not limited to can be found on the [Aerosol-Generating Medical Procedure Guidance Tool](#)

**If performing or assisting with any of these procedures in Continuing Care on an individual with Influenza or Viral Respiratory Illness or on Droplet and Contact Precautions for respiratory symptoms:**

- When possible perform procedure in a single room with door closed.
- Anyone within 2 meters of patient should ensure that they wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - N95 respirator (staff should be fit tested), eye protection/face shield, gown, and gloves

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