









Contact Plus Precautions

In addition to [Routine Practices](#)

(Note: diarrhea and/or vomiting **AND** gastroenteritis suspected)

	<h3>Accommodation</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Private room with bathroom. ➤ Contact Plus Precautions sign visible on entry to room or bed space. ➤ Room door may remain open. <p>Temporary Accommodation of Patients¹ on Contact Plus Precautions (i.e. Emergency Room, Ambulatory Care areas, does not include inpatient hallways) until private room becomes available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create a barrier to define the precautions space, i.e. privacy curtains, or portable, wipe able screen. ➤ Ensure alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) AND hand washing sink is readily available at point of care. ➤ The precaution space shall be treated as though it is a separate room. ➤ Assign the isolated patient a dedicated commode at the bedside.
	<h3>Hand Hygiene</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Perform hand hygiene using soap and water when <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hands are visibly soiled; • caring for patients with diarrhea and/or vomiting. ➤ If soap and water is not readily available, clean hands with ABHR and wash with soap and water at first opportunity. ➤ Perform hand hygiene: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • before accessing and putting on a gown and gloves; • after taking off gloves and gown; • before and after removing facial protection, if worn. ➤ Educate patients and visitors on how and when to use hand hygiene products.
	<h3>Personal Protective Equipment: Gown</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Put on a new gown before entering the patient room or bed space. ➤ Fasten tie strings at the neck and the waist. ➤ Make sure the sleeves cover your wrists. ➤ Put on gown before putting on gloves; gloves should cover the gown cuffs. ➤ Do not wear gowns outside of the patient room/bed space unless transporting contaminated items. ➤ Take off gloves and gown, and perform hand hygiene. ➤ Remove soiled gown as soon as possible before leaving the patient room. ➤ Place used gowns in linen hamper if reusable or garbage if disposable. <p>Refer to: VCH Donning (put on) Personal Protective Equipment and Doffing (take off) Personal Protective Equipment posters for details on careful removal and disposal of gowns.</p>

¹ Patients are all persons who receive or have requested health care or services. The terms "client" or resident" may also be used, depending on the health care setting.

	<h3>Personal Protective Equipment: Gloves</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wear non-sterile gloves to enter the patient room or bed space. ➤ Put on gown first and gloves after; gloves should cover gown cuffs. ➤ Gloves are single use. Use only once, then dispose of them immediately after use. ➤ Change gloves between care activities for the same patient (i.e. work from clean to dirty sites; change gloves after working on a contaminated body site). ➤ Sterile gloves are for sterile procedures. ➤ Never wear gloves outside a patient room or bed space unless transporting contaminated items. ➤ Remove damaged gloves and perform hand hygiene. ➤ Never wash gloves or use ABHR while wearing gloves. ➤ Take off gloves and discard in waste container, remove gown, and then perform hand hygiene. <p>Refer to: VCH Donning (put on) Personal Protective Equipment and Doffing (take off) Personal Protective Equipment posters for details on careful removal and disposal of gloves.</p>
 	<h3>Personal Protective Equipment: Mask and Eye Protection</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wear a mask and eye protection according to the Point of Care Risk Assessment when there is a risk of splash or spray as described in Routine Practices, including when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patient has active vomiting; • flushing diarrheal stools. ➤ If patient has active vomiting and gastroenteritis is suspected, add Droplet Precautions sign and follow guidelines for both Contact Plus and Droplet Precautions. <p>Refer to: VCH Donning (put on) Personal Protective Equipment and Doffing (take off) Personal Protective Equipment posters for details on careful removal and disposal of masks and eye protection.</p>
 	<h3>Handling Patient Care Items and Equipment</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use disposable patient equipment when possible. ➤ Minimize quantity of supplies and belongings brought in to the patient's room. ➤ Dedicate reusable equipment to a single isolation patient, until discharge (i.e. blood pressure cuff, commode). Clean and disinfect between uses. ➤ If reusable equipment cannot be dedicated to a single isolation patient, clean and disinfect thoroughly between patients. ➤ Contact Plus Precautions rooms should contain a dedicated soiled linen hamper. ➤ Do not share any items that cannot be cleaned or disinfected i.e. electronic gaming devices, magazines. ➤ Meal trays and beverage dishes do not require special handling. ➤ Facility showers should only be used when no other option is available, and only at the end of the day with thorough cleaning and disinfection after patient use. Use hospital approved cleaning and disinfection products. Do not use bathing tubs until all symptoms have resolved. ➤ After patients are discharged, discard single-use supplies that remain and launder unused linens.



Patient Ambulation Outside Room, Bed Space or Transfer

- Notify the receiving area before departure of the need for Contact Plus Precautions.
- Patients may leave the room or bed space for necessary tests, rehabilitation, or ambulation.
- Before patient leaves their room, educate or assist them to:
 - perform hand hygiene;
 - put on clean clothing or hospital gown/housecoat, or cover with clean blanket;
 - ensure dressings and incontinence products contain drainage.
- Hard surface medical chart covers should be wiped and stored to prevent soiling during transport (in plastic bag under stretcher or in wheelchair pocket).
- Transport staff:
 - Use personal protective equipment (PPE) according to the Contact Plus Precautions sign on entry to the patient room. Remove PPE, perform hand hygiene and use a wipe to clean and disinfect the handles of the wheelchair/stretcher on exit from the room.
 - Use a point of care risk assessment to assess the risk of patient contact during transport and choose to carry clean personal protective equipment if indicated. If used on transport, PPE is to be removed when patient handling is complete. PPE must be removed and hand hygiene performed between contact with the patient and contact with the healthcare environment (e.g., elevator buttons)
 - At destination, don PPE on entry to patient room if patient handling is required and remove on exit followed by hand hygiene.
- Clean and disinfect transport wheelchair/stretcher between patients.



Patient Hygiene

- Daily access to or assistance with:
 - Clean gown/clothes (additionally when soiled)
 - Linen change (sheets, pillowcase, towels, face cloth) (additionally when soiled)
 - Oral care
 - Bathing (includes use of cleaning wipes and/or bath basin)



Family and Visitors

- Encourage family and visitors to perform hand hygiene.
- Instruct family and visitors to:
 - Put on and take off gown and gloves, and perform hand hygiene if participating in the care of the patient.
 - Keep the visitors to a minimum.



Environmental Cleaning

- Room surfaces and equipment cleaning/disinfection is required on a twice daily basis or more frequently if directed by Infection Prevention and Control using VCH approved cleaning and disinfection products and procedures.
- After patient discharge, clean room as per existing environmental services cleaning guidelines and procedures for Contact Plus Precautions.
 - Do not remove Contact Plus Precautions sign until cleaning is complete.
 - Replace privacy curtains.