




Contact Precautions




In addition to [Routine Practices](#)

Additional Precautions are sometimes necessary to protect everyone from the spread of infection. However, this should not interfere with the quality of care.


Remember to engage with your patients who are on Additional Precautions and be mindful of other strategies to prevent social isolation.

 	<h3>Accommodation</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private room with bathroom (recommended whenever possible). If a private room is not available, patients with the same organism may be placed on Contact Precautions within the same room (cohort). • Contact Precautions sign visible on entry to room or bed space. • Room door may remain open (close door if an aerosol generating medical procedure (AGMP) is in progress). <p>Temporary Accommodation of Patients on Contact Precautions (i.e. Emergency Room, Ambulatory Care areas, not including inpatient hallways) until private or cohort 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) or 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 alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and water as described in the 4 Moments for Hand Hygiene. • Perform hand hygiene before accessing and putting on gown and gloves. • Perform hand hygiene after taking off gloves and gown. • Educate patients and visitors on how and when to perform hand hygiene.






 	<h2>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</h2> <p>Refer to VCH Donning (put on) Personal Protective Equipment and Doffing (take off) Personal Protective Equipment posters and videos (Donning / Doffing).</p> <h3>Gown & Gloves</h3> <p>Before entering room:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform hand hygiene. • Put on a new gown before entering room/bed space – fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to wrists, and fasten ties at the back of the neck and waist. • Put on new gloves before entering room/bed space – extend gloves over the cuffs of the gown. • Do not wear gown/gloves outside of room/bed space unless transporting contaminated items. <p>Before exiting room:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove gloves and gown before exiting room. Place used gowns in linen hamper if reusable or garbage if disposable. Perform hand hygiene. <h3>Mask & Eye Protection</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a mask and/or eye protection according to the Point of Care Risk Assessment when there is a risk of splash or spray. • Add Droplet Precautions for patients with respiratory symptoms and/or antibiotic resistant organisms (AROs) found in their sputum. Change signage and follow guidelines for Droplet & Contact Precautions.
	<h2>Handling Patient Care Items and Equipment</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use disposable patient equipment when possible. • Minimize quantity of supplies and belongings brought into the patient's room. • Dedicate reusable equipment to a single isolation patient until discharge (i.e. blood pressure cuff, commode). • If reusable equipment cannot be dedicated to a single isolation patient, clean and disinfect thoroughly between patients. • Rooms should contain a dedicated soiled linen hamper. • Do not share any items between patients that cannot be cleaned or disinfected (i.e. shared toys, puzzles, games and reading materials).



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meal trays, dishes, and beverage containers do not require special handling. • Facility bathing tubs/showers can be used for patients on Contact Precautions ensuring the tub/shower is cleaned and disinfected after each patient use. Schedule patients on precautions at the end of the days' shower schedule when possible. Use hospital approved cleaning and disinfection products to clean tubs/showers. • On discharge discard single-use supplies that remain and launder unused linens.
	<h2>Patient Ambulation Outside Room, Bed Space, or Transfer</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify the receiving area before departure of the need for Contact Precautions. • If antibiotic resistant organism (ARO) include information on transfer documentation. • Patients are to remain in their room or bed space unless required for diagnostic, therapeutic or ambulatory purposes. • Before patient leaves their room, educate or assist them to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform hand hygiene • Put on a procedure/surgical mask • Put on clean clothing or hospital gown/housecoat or cover with a 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). <h3>Transport Staff:</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use PPE according to the Contact Precautions sign on entry to the patient room. • On picking up patient use a Point of Care Risk Assessment to assess the risk of patient contact during transport and choose to carry clean PPE if indicated. If used during transport, PPE is to be removed and hand hygiene performed when patient handling is complete.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At destination, don PPE on entry to room if patient handling is required and remove on exit followed by hand hygiene. • Clean and disinfect wheelchair/stretchers.
	<p>Patient Hygiene</p> <p>Daily access to or assistance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean gown/clothes (additionally when soiled) • Linen change (sheets, pillowcase, towels, face cloth) (additionally when soiled) • Oral care • Bathing (including use of cleaning wipes and/or bath basin)
	<p>Family and Visitors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage family members and visitors to perform hand hygiene. • Instruct visitors to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put on and take off gown/gloves and perform hand hygiene if participating in patient care. • Keep visitors to a minimum.
	<p>Environmental Cleaning</p> <p>Room surfaces and equipment cleaning/disinfection is required on a daily basis or more frequently if directed by IPAC, using VCH approved cleaning and disinfection products and procedures for Contact Precautions.</p> <p>After patient discharge or transfer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not remove Contact Precautions sign until after settle time and environmental cleaning are complete. • Replace privacy curtains.

