










Droplet Precautions

In addition to [Routine Practices](#)

	<h3>Accommodation</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Private room with bathroom (recommended whenever possible). ➤ Droplet 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 and use Airborne and Contact Precautions for AGMP). ➤ In circumstances where room sharing occurs, a separation of at least 2 meters between patients¹, a dedicated bathroom or commode for patients on precautions, and privacy curtains must be pulled between patients.
	<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 Routine Practices. ➤ Use plain soap and water when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hands are visibly soiled; • caring for patients with diarrhea and/or vomiting. ➤ Perform hand hygiene: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • before accessing and putting on a mask, and eye protection; • after taking off eye protection and mask. ➤ Educate patients and visitors on how and when to use hand hygiene products.
	<h3>Personal Protective Equipment: Mask and Eye Protection</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wear facial protection to protect your mouth, nose, and eyes. ➤ If you need a mask, you also need eye protection (i.e. goggles, face shield, mask with attached visor). ➤ Perform hand hygiene before accessing and putting on and immediately before and after taking off mask and eye protection. ➤ Proper wearing of mask includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring a snug fit over the nose and under the chin; • molding the metal bar over the nose; • wearing the mask with the moisture-absorbent side closest to the face; • removing mask when leaving patient room or bed space (at least 2 meters away from patient); • changing the mask when it becomes moist; • touching only the elastic straps or ties when removing the mask; • not wearing masks around the neck. ➤ Prescription glasses do not meet Workplace Health regulations for eye protection. ➤ Clean and disinfect reusable eye protection after each use. ➤ Discard single-use masks and eye protection in regular waste container. <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>

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: Gown and Gloves</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wear a gown and/or gloves according to the Point of Care Risk Assessment when there is a risk of contact with mucous membranes, non-intact skin, blood or body fluids or when contamination of clothing is anticipated, as described in Routine Practices.
	<h3>Handling Patient Care Items and Equipment</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use disposable patient equipment when possible. ➤ Dedicate reusable equipment to a single isolation patient, until discharge (i.e. blood pressure cuff, commode). Clean and disinfect equipment between uses. ➤ If reusable equipment cannot be dedicated to a single isolation patient, clean and disinfect thoroughly between patients. ➤ Droplet Precautions rooms should contain a dedicated soiled linen hamper. ➤ Do not share any items between patients that cannot be cleaned or disinfected (i.e. electronic gaming devices, magazines). ➤ Meal trays and beverage dishes do not require special handling. ➤ On patient discharge, discard single-use supplies that remain and launder unused linens.
	<h3>Patient Ambulation Outside Room, Bed Space or Transfer</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Notify the receiving area before departure of the need for Droplet Precautions. ➤ Patients should leave the room or bed space for essential and diagnostic purposes only. ➤ 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 ➤ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use personal protective equipment (PPE) according to the Droplet 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/mask removal 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.
	<h3>Patient Hygiene</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Daily access to or assistance with: <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 (includes use of cleaning wipes and/or bath basin)

 <p>DROPLET PRECAUTIONS Bed # _____</p> <p>Families and visitors: STOP Please report to staff before entering Clean hands before entering and when leaving room</p> <p>Staff: Required: Mask at Close Proximity Goggles and eye protection Gown and gloves if patient is coughing or sneezing</p>	<h2>Family and Visitors</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage family members and visitors to perform hand hygiene. ➤ Instruct family and visitors how to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● put on and take off mask and eye protection; ● Keep the visitors to a minimum.
	<h2>Environmental Cleaning</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Room surfaces and equipment cleaning/disinfection is required on a 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 for Droplet Precautions. Do not remove Droplet Precautions sign until cleaning is complete. Replace privacy curtains.