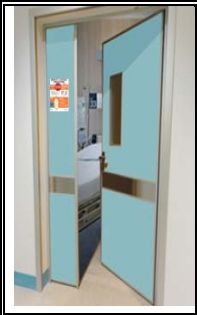
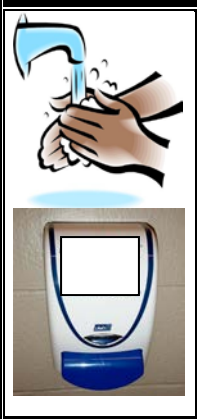
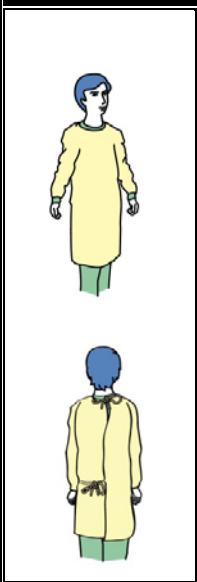









Droplet and Contact Precautions

In addition to [Routine Practices](#)

	<h3>Accommodation</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Private room with bathroom (recommended whenever possible). ➤ Droplet and 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 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 gown, gloves, mask, and eye protection; • after taking off gloves and gown, and again after removing eye protection and mask. ➤ 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 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 patient room. ➤ Place used gowns in linen hamper if reusable or garbage if disposable. <p>Refer to: VCH How to use Personal Protective Equipment poster 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: Mask and Eye Protection</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If you need a mask, you also need eye protection (i.e. goggles, face shield, mask with attached visor). ➤ Perform hand hygiene before putting on and immediately 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>
	<h3>Personal Protective Equipment: Gloves</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wear non-sterile gloves to enter 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, 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>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 and Contact 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). ➤ On patient discharge, discard single-use supplies that remain and launder unused linens. ➤ Meal trays and beverage dishes do not require special handling.

	<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 and Contact 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; • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use personal protective equipment (PPE) according to the Droplet & Contact 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.
	<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)
	<h3>Family and Visitors</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage family members and visitors to perform hand hygiene. ➤ Instruct family and visitors to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • put on and take off gloves, gown, eye protection and mask; • Keep the visitors to a minimum.
	<h3>Environmental Cleaning</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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 procedures. ➤ After patient discharge or transfer, clean room as per current environmental services cleaning guidelines and procedures for Droplet and Contact precautions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not remove Droplet and Contact Precautions sign until cleaning is complete. • Replace privacy curtains.