

<b>Best Practice Guideline</b>	<b>Droplet and Droplet and Contact Precautions in Long-Term Care and Assisted Living</b>
<b>Date</b>	October 10, 2024
<b>Reviewed Date</b>	
<b>Revised Date</b>	

A printed version of this guideline may not be the most recent version. The OFFICIAL version is located at [www.ipac.vch.ca](http://www.ipac.vch.ca).

## Site Applicability

All Vancouver Coastal Health owned, operated and contracted Long-Term Care and Assisted Living providers.

## Scope of Practice

All Staff

## Purpose

To provide guidance for staff to implement Droplet Precautions. Droplet Precautions are measures in preventing the transmission of suspected or confirmed infections spread by the droplet route in healthcare settings based on known or suspected symptom presentation or identified conditions/situations.

To provide guidance for staff to implement Droplet and Droplet/Contact Precautions. Droplet and Droplet/Contact Precautions are measures in preventing transmission of suspected or confirmed infections spread by the droplet route directly and indirectly from contact surfaces.

## Background

Droplet and Droplet/Contact Precautions is a form of Additional Precautions. Additional Precautions are required when the transmission characteristics of a specific microorganism and/or set of symptoms are not prevented with the use of Routine Practices alone. Additional Precautions do not replace the need for Routine Practice; rather they are used simultaneously. Refer to the [VCH Diseases and Conditions Table](#) for specific organisms.

## Management of Resident on Droplet Precautions

<b>Accommodation</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents who have a suspected or confirmed active infection that spreads by the droplet route should be placed on Droplet Precautions.</li> <li>Post <a href="#">Droplet Precaution signage</a> and <a href="#">donning signage</a> at entrance; <a href="#">doffing signage</a> in the doffing zone.</li> </ul>



- Private room with bathroom (preferred). If a private room is not available, maintain resident in the shared room with the curtains drawn.
- Room door may remain open.

## Resident

- Maintain a 2 meter spatial separation between residents.
- Serve meals inside room
- Avoid participation in group activities until precautions discontinued
- Dedicate equipment where possible.
- Maintain resident on Droplet Precautions as per the [VCH Diseases and Conditions Table](#). Consult with an Infection Control Practitioner (ICP) if requiring further guidance.
  - Prior to discontinuing precautions, notify housekeeping services to perform an Additional Precautions discharge clean of room (including bathroom) and care staff to provide resident bath prior to removing the signage from entrance.
- Bring only necessary care items into the resident environment
- Single use equipment is preferred for residents.
  - If single use equipment is not available, dedicate multi-use equipment for the duration the resident remains on Droplet Precautions.
  - Clean and disinfect multi-use equipment after removing from room with a product that is effective against the confirmed organism.
- Discard any unused supplies or items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected.
- Encourage the resident to perform hand hygiene prior to meals and after toileting.
- For transport, ensure receiving facility and transport personnel are aware of droplet precautions

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Staff to wear a new medical mask and eye protection prior to any contact within 2 meters of the resident and the resident's environment.
- [Remove PPE](#) in the doffing zone and perform hand hygiene.
  - Doff medical mask 2 meters away from resident (this may occur outside the resident room once all other PPE is removed)

## Environmental Cleaning

- Consult with your Infection Control Practitioner for recommendations on Enhanced Cleaning.

## Family and Visitors

- Provide support and education to family members/visitors on donning/doffing and hand hygiene.

Information for patients, families and visitors



[Droplet Precautions](#)

[Droplet/Contact Precautions](#)

## Management of a Resident on Droplet and Contact Precautions

1. Residents are managed with the same measures as Droplet Precautions above, and with the following additional measures:
  - a. Post [Droplet and Contact Precaution](#) signage at entrance.
    - i. Staff to wear a new gown, gloves, medical mask and eye protection prior to any contact within 2 meters of the resident and the resident's environment.

## Notification and Documentation

Nursing staff to document in the clinical record that the resident is on Droplet or Droplet and Contact Precautions and notify the Clinical Services Manager and ICP.

## Admissions/Transfers

- When transferring a resident, notify the transferring service, receiving unit, or facility/home care agency of the necessary requirements and additional precautions in advance.
- There are no restrictions to admitting residents on Droplet or Droplet and Contact precautions.

