

<b>Best Practice Guideline</b>	<b>Preparing Rooms on Additional Precautions in Long-Term Care (LTC) and Assisted Living (AL)</b>
<b>Date</b>	January 3, 2023
<b>Reviewed Date</b>	
<b>Revised Date</b>	

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## Site Applicability

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

## Scope of Practice

All staff

## Purpose

To outline requirements for equipment and supplies when additional precautions are required.

## Background

Additional precautions are required when the transmission characteristics of specific microorganisms are not fully prevented by routine practices alone.

Additional precautions include contact, droplet and airborne routes. In some instances, more than one type of additional precaution may be required as some microorganisms have more than one route of transmission. The application of routine practices continues when additional precautions are in place. For detailed information regarding isolation requirements for specific microorganisms, consult your ICP and/or review the [VCH Diseases and Conditions table](#).

## Procedure

Resident(s) identified through confirmed lab test and/or clinical assessment of presenting symptoms suggestive of communicable illness necessitating application of additional precautions in addition to continued use of routine practices.

## Single Room Accommodation

1. Single room occupancy with dedicated washroom facilities is preferred, however the resident may be placed in a multi-bed room if a single room is unavailable.
2. Post appropriate additional precautions signage outside the resident's door to communicate to all healthcare providers and visitors of additional necessary steps to safely provide support and care for the resident.



3. Signage should be printed, laminated and posted in colour to enable quick visual interpretation.  
[Contact Precautions](#)  
[Contact Plus Precautions](#)  
[Droplet Precautions](#)  
[Droplet Contact Precautions](#)  
[Airborne Precautions](#)  
[Airborne Contact Precautions](#)
4. Post [donning](#) (outside the room) and [doffing](#) (inside the room) signage. Posting signage will assist staff to use the correct sequence to don and doff their PPE safely.
5. Use a utility table to place items (supplies, meal trays, belongings) to facilitate donning/doffing of PPE and allow for bundling of care for residents on precautions.
6. Set up supplies at the entrance to the isolation room. **DO NOT** place any other supplies on the [PPE carts](#), except for items listed below.
  - Gloves (S/M/L) x 1 box each
  - Medical Mask x 1 box
  - Medical Mask with visor x 1 box
  - Alcohol based hand rub x 1 (if not wall mounted)
  - Disposable gowns
  - Contenance supplies
  - Cleaning/disinfecting wipes (if not wall mounted)
7. Dedicate resident care equipment to isolation room when possible. This may include but is not limited to commode (if dedicated washroom not available), vital sign monitor/dynamap, blood pressure cuff, pulse oximetry. If unable to dedicate equipment, clean and disinfect between residents on exiting the room. It may be helpful to have a small utility table placed just outside the room to facilitate staff during exiting sequence. The horizontal surface(s) of the utility table must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

## Multi-Bed Accommodation

1. If you have a resident in a multi-bed room who requires additional precautions, do not move the resident without first consulting the infection control practitioner.
2. If additional precautions are applied in a space without walls or in a multi-bed room, place the PPE cart outside of the shared room or outside of the isolated bedspace. If you are unsure where to place the PPE cart, please consult your infection control practitioner.
3. The additional precautions space must have:
  - Appropriate additional precautions signage posted on the drawn curtain and/or physical barrier
  - Drawn curtain or other physical barrier
  - Alcohol based hand rub at point of care
  - Cleaning and disinfecting wipes at point of care
  - Dedicated equipment including:



- Garbage can
  - Linen bag
  - Washroom or commode
4. Upon exiting the isolation space within the multi-bed room, remove PPE and perform hand hygiene prior to leaving the additional precautions space and going to the next resident in that room.
  5. Where possible, provide care to unaffected residents prior to providing care to those on additional precautions.
  6. When removing clinical equipment from the additional precautions space, cleaned and disinfected at point-of-use prior to leaving the additional precautions space.
  7. It may be helpful to have a small utility table close to the additional precautions space where staff can place items to be cleaned and disinfected.
  8. The horizontal surface(s) of the utility table should be cleaned and disinfected after use.





Fig. A – Utility Table



Fig. B – PPE Cart

## References

Alberta Health Services (2020). IPC COVID-19 Additional Precautions Without Walls in Shared Patient Care Space. Retrieved December 9, 2022 from <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/hi-ipc-setting-up-isoln-wo-walls-shrd-space.pdf>

