




Droplet 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 Droplet 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). • 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 metres between patients, a dedicated bathroom or commode for patients on precautions, and privacy curtains must be pulled between patients. <p>Temporary Accommodation of Patients on Droplet 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. • Use plain soap and water when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands are visibly soiled • Caring for patients with diarrhea and/or vomiting



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform hand hygiene before accessing and putting on a mask and eye protection. • Perform hand hygiene after taking off eye protection and mask. • 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>Mask & Eye Protection</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear facial protection to protect your mouth, nose, and eyes. • Perform hand hygiene before accessing and putting on and immediately before and after taking off mask and eye protection. • Proper wearing of a 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 the mask when leaving patient room or bed space (at least 2 meters away from patient) • Changing the mask when it becomes moist • Not wearing masks around the neck • Prescription glasses do not meet Workplace Health regulars for eye protection. • Clean and disinfect reusable eye protection after each use. • Discard single-use masks and eye protection in regular waste container. <h3>Gown & Gloves</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear 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.





Handling Patient Care Items and Equipment

- 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). [Clean and disinfect equipment](#) between each use.
- 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](#)).
- Meal trays, dishes, and beverage containers [do not require special handling](#).
- On discharge discard single-use supplies that remain and launder unused linens.






Patient Ambulation Outside Room, Bed Space, or Transfer

- Notify the receiving area before departure of the need for [Droplet Precautions](#).
- 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:
 - 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:

- Use PPE according to the [Droplet 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



	<p>indicated. If used during transport, PPE is to be removed and hand hygiene performed when patient handling is complete.</p> <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.
	<h3>Patient Hygiene</h3> <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)
	<h3>Family and Visitors</h3> <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 mask and eye protection and perform hand hygiene if participating in patient care. • Keep visitors to a minimum.
	<h3>Environmental Cleaning</h3> <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 Droplet Precautions.</p> <p>After patient discharge or transfer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not remove Droplet Precautions sign until after settle time and environmental cleaning are complete. • Replace privacy curtains.

