

# INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL Policy

Title:	Routine Practices and Additional Precautions	Number:	IPC-RP-001
Sponsor:	Senior Director, Quality Improvement, Safety and Patient Relations	Page:	1 of 7
Approved by:	VP, Quality, System Performance and Transformation	Approval Date:	August 8, 2017
		Effective Date:	August 8, 2017
Applies To:	NSHA Staff		

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

POLICY STATEMENTS.....	2
CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES.....	3
REFERENCES.....	3
RELATED DOCUMENTS .....	4
Learning Module.....	4
IPC-RP-005 Routine Practices.....	4
IPC-RP-010 Contact Precautions .....	4
PC-RP-015 Droplet Precautions .....	4
IPC-RP-025 Airborne Precautions .....	4
Replacing the Following District Health Authority Policies/Version History .....	4
Appendix A -- Definitions .....	5

## PREAMBLE

1. Routine Practices are the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) minimum standards of infection prevention and control (IPAC) practice to prevent the spread of microorganisms that cause infection in all health care settings.
2. The need for Additional Precautions (i.e. contact, droplet, and airborne) combined with Routine Practices is determined based on the route of spread of microorganisms that are known or suspected.

3. This policy serves as an umbrella policy for the following IPAC policies:

- [IPC-RP-005 Routine Practices](#)
- [IPC-RP-010 Contact Precautions](#)
- [IPC-RP-015 Droplet Precautions](#)
- [IPC-RP-025 Airborne Precautions](#)

## POLICY STATEMENTS

1. All Staff must follow Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in all health care settings and at all times to reduce the spread of microorganisms that cause infection to patients, Staff, visitors and volunteers.
2. Clinical Care Providers must complete a Point-of-Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) before any interaction with patients or their environments.
3. Clinical Care Providers must implement Additional Precautions based on results of a PCRA. IPAC must be notified. A confirmed infectious diagnosis is not necessary. Refer to the [Disease Index/Transmission Based Summary Table](#) for guidance on routes of transmission and type of precautions to be utilized.
4. Additional Precautions must only be discontinued in consultation with IPAC.
5. Additional Precautions must be communicated to all members of the health care team providing care, and upon transfer of the patient to receiving unit/department/ facility or Emergency Health Services (EHS).
6. When initiating Additional Precautions for suspected outbreak situations, IPAC or the Administrator for the facility (after hours) must be notified. Refer to policy IPC-CD-001 [Outbreak Management](#).
7. The first person to suspect/identify a notifiable disease or condition must notify public Health per ["It's the Law Reporting Notifiable Diseases and Conditions"](#).
8. Environmental controls such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), accommodations, and additional environmental cleaning must be put in place for all patients requiring additional precautions.

*This is a CONTROLLED document for internal use only. Any documents appearing in paper form are not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version prior to use.*

## CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

**Note:** More than one of these Clinical Practice Guidelines may need to be incorporated into patient care as directed by the Disease Index/Transmission Based Summary Table (links below).

For example: Droplet and Contact Precautions will be required for patients suspected or confirmed to have Influenza like illness.

[IPC-RP-005 Routine Practices](#): Used for all patients in all health care settings

Additional Precautions: based on routes of transmission (Used in addition to Routine Practices):

[IPC-RP-010 Contact Precautions](#)

[IPC-RP-015 Droplet Precautions](#)

[IPC-RP-025 Airborne Precautions](#)

## DISEASE INDEX/TRANSMISSION BASED SUMMARY TABLE

[Annapolis Valley](#)

[Cape Breton](#)

[Central Zone](#)

[Guysborough Antigonish Strait](#)

[Colchester](#)

[Cumberland](#)

[South Shore](#)

[South West](#)

## REFERENCES

Infection Prevention and Control Nova Scotia (IPCNS), Department of Health and Wellness. (June 2015). Infection Prevention and Control: Guidelines for Long-Term Care Facilities.

Occupational Safety General Regulations. Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act. (June 2013). Retrieved June 8, 2016 from:

<https://www.novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/ohsgensf.htm>

Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee. PIDAC: Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in all Health care Settings-3rd ed. (Nov 2012). Retrieved April 1, 2016 from:

[https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/RPAP\\_All\\_HealthCare\\_Settings\\_Eng2012.pdf](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/RPAP_All_HealthCare_Settings_Eng2012.pdf)

Public Health Agency of Canada. (2012). Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care.

Occupational Safety General Regulations. Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act. (June 2013). Retrieved June 8, 2016 from:  
<https://www.novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/ohsgensf.htm>

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

### Learning Module

[Routine Practices and Additional Precautions](#)

### Policies

[IPC-CD-001 Outbreak Management](#)

[IPC-RP-005 Routine Practices](#)

[IPC-RP-010 Contact Precautions](#)

[PC-RP-015 Droplet Precautions](#)

[IPC-RP-025 Airborne Precautions](#)

### Patient Teaching Pamphlet

NSHA [Preventing the Spread of Germs and Infections: Routine Practices and Additional Precautions](#)

## APPENDICES

Appendix A – Definitions

[Replacing the Following District Health Authority Policies/Version History](#)

\* \* \*

## Appendix A -- Definitions

<b>Additional Precautions</b>	Further precautions based on the method of transmission (i.e. contact, droplet, airborne) that are necessary when routine practices alone may not be enough to interrupt transmission of an infectious agent.
<b>Clinical Care Provider</b>	Any person who delivers clinical care to a client, patient or resident.
<b>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</b>	Clothing or equipment used for protection against hazards (e.g. masks, N95 respirators, gowns, gloves, eye protection).
<b>Point of Care Risk Assessment</b>	An activity where clinical care providers evaluate the likelihood of exposure to an infectious agent for a specific interaction, with a specific patient, in a specific environment, under available conditions and choose the appropriate actions/PPE needed to minimize exposure.
<b>Routine Practices</b>	Routine practices are infection prevention and control (IPAC) practices for use in the routine care of all patients at all times in all healthcare settings and are determined by the circumstances of the patient, the environment and the task to be performed
<b>Staff</b>	Unless specifically limited in a specific Policy, refers to all employees, physicians, learners, volunteers, board members, contractors, contract workers, franchise employees, and other individuals performing work activities within the NSHA.

## **District Health Authority Policies Being Replaced Annapolis Valley**

282.006 Routine Practices and Additional Precautions

### **Cape Breton**

IC-I-20 Routine Practices

IC-I-40 Contact Precautions for All Care Settings

IC-I-50 Droplet Precautions in All Care Settings

IC-I-30 Airborne Infection Precautions

### **Capital Health**

IC-040-002 Routine Practices

IC 04-008 Contact Precautions

IC 04-011 Droplet Precautions

IC 04-010 Airborne Infection Precautions

### **Colchester East Hants**

115-007 Routine Practices

115-003 Isolation and Precaution Guidelines

### **Guysborough Antigonish Strait**

3-04 Routine Practices

3-02 Contact Precautions

3-05 Additional Precautions- Airborne and Droplet

3-06 Additional Precautions & Patient Transportation

### **Pictou County Health**

9-r-20 Routine Practices & Isolation Precautions

### **South Shore Health**

IC-210-001 Infection Prevention and Control: Routine Practices and Additional Precautions

### **South West Health**

600.115.1 Isolation Precautions Initiation and Discontinuing

## **Version History**

*This is a CONTROLLED document for internal use only. Any documents appearing in paper form are not controlled and should be checked against the electronic file version prior to use.*

<b>Major Revisions (e.g. Standard 4 year review)</b>	<b>Minor Revisions (e.g. spelling correction, wording changes, etc.)</b>
New to NSHA 2017-08-08	2018-01-18 updated link to teaching pamphlet