

Policy Title:	Routine Practices and Additional Precautions	
Applies To:	All Nova Scotia Health Team Members	
Location Applicability:	All Nova Scotia Health Zones and Sites	
Related Procedure(s):	IPC-RP-005 Routine Practices IPC-RP-010 Contact Precautions IPC-RP-015 Droplet Precautions IPC-RP-025 Airborne Precautions IPC-CD-001 Outbreak Management IPC-RP-020 Hand Hygiene	
Approved:	Effective:	Next Review:
October 13, 2022	October 14, 2022	October 13, 2026
Sponsor:	Senior Director, Quality Improvement & Safety	
Approval Authority:	VP, Medicine	
Number: IPC-RP-001	Manual:	Infection Prevention and Control

PURPOSE

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 Team Members must follow Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in all health care settings to reduce the spread of microorganisms that cause infection to patients/clients/residents, team members, visitors, Essential Care Partners, and volunteers.
2. Clinical Care Providers must complete a Point-of-Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) before any interaction with patients/clients/residents or their environments.

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3. Clinical Care Providers must implement Additional Precautions based on results of a PCRA.
 - 3.1. IPAC must be notified.
 - 3.2. A confirmed infectious diagnosis is not necessary.
 - 3.3. Refer to the [IPAC Disease Index](#) 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/client/resident 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/clients/residents requiring additional precautions.

PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

People Centred Care:

- Nova Scotia Health is committed to preventing the transmission of microorganisms by following Routine Practices and Additional Precautions.
- 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.
- 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.

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

NOTE: More than one of these Clinical Practice Guidelines may need to be incorporated into patient care as directed by the IPAC Disease Index (links below).

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

1. Routine Practices: Practices used for all patient/client/resident interactions
 - [IPC-RP-005 Routine Practices](#)

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2. Additional Precautions: Precautions implemented 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](#)

REFERENCES

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

Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee. (Nov 2012). PIDAC: Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in all Health care Settings-3rd ed. Retrieved April 1, 2016: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/B/2012/bp-rpap-healthcare-settings.pdf?sc_lang=en

Public Health Agency of Canada (2012). Hand Hygiene Practices in Healthcare Settings. https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2012/aspc-phac/HP40-74-2012-eng.pdf

The Public Health Agency of Canada. (2016). *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Healthcare Settings*. <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/diseases-conditions/routine-practices-precautions-healthcare-associated-infections/routine-practices-precautions-healthcare-associated-infections-2016-FINAL-eng.pdf>

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Learning Module

[Routine Practices and Additional Precautions](#)

Policies

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

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

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

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

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

[IPC-RP-020 Hand Hygiene](#)

[IPC-CL-001 Cleaning and Disinfection of Non-Critical Reusable Patient Care Equipment](#)

[ENV-WS-001 Waste Management](#)

Patient Teaching Pamphlet

[Preventing the Spread of Infections- Routine Practices and Additional Precautions
Hand Hygiene](#)

Videos

[Donning and doffing instructions: PPE used for droplet and contact precautions](#)
[Essential Care Partners in Acute Care](#)

Appendices

[Appendix A: Definitions](#)

Appendix A: Definitions

Additional Precautions	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.
Clinical Care Provider	Any person who delivers clinical care to a client, patient or resident.
Essential Care Partner	An essential care partner is a person who provides physical, psychological and emotional support, as deemed important by a patient, resident, or client. (Healthcare Excellence Canada, 2021)
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Clothing or equipment used for protection against hazards (e.g. masks, N95 respirators, gowns, gloves, eye protection).
Point of Care Risk Assessment	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.
Routine Practices	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.
Team Members	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 Nova Scotia Health.

VERSION HISTORY

Version:	Effective:	Approved by:	What's changed:
Original	2017-08-08	[Issuing Authority]	N/A
Standard review	2022-10-14	Gail Blackmore, Senior Director, Quality, and Improvement	Minor revisions that do not affect content