



## Recommended Practices and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Allied Health Facilities – Interim Guidance 08/05/20

### Phase 1–2: No evidence of community spread

The following are interim guidelines for the use of PPE in allied health facilities. Given the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in Yukon, it is not recommended to assume and treat each patient as suspect for COVID-19. Rather, each patient encounter should be evaluated based on risk factors for COVID-19. Please call and screen each patient 24 hours prior to their scheduled visit. The presence or absence of risk factors will direct the provider or staff member to the recommended steps for that particular encounter. We strongly recommend the utilization of a virtual health platform for patient care, if applicable.

Risk factors for COVID-19:

- Any travel outside Yukon or Canada in the past 14 days
- Named as a possible contact and currently under self-isolation
- Any household members who are currently under self-isolation
- Presence of any of the following symptoms: fever and/or chills, cough, difficulty breathing

If any one of the above risk factors is present, it is recommended to postpone the visit until the patient has been evaluated by a medical provider and is no longer symptomatic, or until the self-isolation period is complete as directed by their health care provider. For those who have screened positive for symptoms, please advise the patient to call 811 or complete the online Yukon COVID-19 self-assessment as further evaluation and/or testing may be required. If your patient requires urgent, essential evaluation and treatment, please follow the process and recommendations outlined on pages 5-6.

The presence of any one of the above risk factors will indicate the need for augmentation of Routine Practices.

### What are Routine Practices?

Routine Practices are the infection prevention and control (IPC) “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.”<sup>1</sup>

Central to these Routine Practices is a point-of-care (POC) risk assessment. A POC risk assessment is performed by healthcare workers to determine which IPC measures are appropriate to assure safe patient care, given the symptoms of the patient and the intended interaction, and to protect the healthcare worker from exposure to infection (such as exposure to body fluids, respiratory secretions, sharps, etc.).

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<sup>1</sup> “Routine practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in healthcare settings.” 2017-09-05.

[www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/routine-practices-precautions-healthcare-associated-infections/part-a.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/routine-practices-precautions-healthcare-associated-infections/part-a.html) Accessed 2020-04-20

Routine practices include, but are not limited to:

- Point-of-care risk assessment
- Hand hygiene (either soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer)
- Aseptic technique
- Patient placement and flow
- Appropriate use of PPE
- Management and cleaning of the patient care environment



**The continuation of basic public health measures shown to reduce the risk of transmission and acquisition of COVID-19 is imperative to all interactions:**

- **Physical/social distancing**
- **Hand hygiene**
- **Respiratory etiquette**

Additional measures can be put in place to help to create a safer environment for the patient and staff. Such environmental measures and visual cues include:

- Visual cues and signage at doors encouraging patients to call ahead if symptomatic
- Visual cues and signage re-enforcing good hand hygiene practices and respiratory etiquette
- Plexiglass barrier for administrative staff/screeners
- Duct tape or other visual cue indicating appropriate spacing between patients
- Staggering scheduled appointments in order to maximize capacity for physical distancing in the health center

The tables on the next four pages indicate the appropriate PPE for patient care based on target personnel and activity. If there are no COVID-19 risk factors, continue Routine Practices relevant for the intended interaction.

Appropriate PPE for patient care based on target personnel and activity.  
 If there are no COVID-19 risk factors, continue Routine Practices relevant for the intended interaction.

Key:  Patients  Staff  Environmental Services

Target space	Target personnel	Activity/Interaction	Recommended practices
Screening/ triage area	Staff Screener/ administrative staff	Screening or greeting a patient, not involving direct contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain at least 2 metres separation or</li> <li>Behind plexiglass</li> </ul>
	Patients <b>without</b> respiratory symptoms or risk factors for COVID-19	Being screened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand hygiene</li> <li>Maintain at least 2 metres distance</li> </ul>
Clinical space	Staff All staff	Tasks that do not involve patient contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain at least 2 metres separation</li> <li>Regular practices of respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene</li> </ul>
Waiting room	Patients <b>without</b> respiratory symptoms and absence of risk factors for COVID-19	Waiting for evaluation/ treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand hygiene</li> <li>Maintain at least 2 metre distance from other patients</li> </ul>
Consultation room	Staff Allied health-care workers	Performing evaluation/treatment for patient <b>without</b> respiratory symptoms and absence of COVID-19 risk factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand hygiene</li> <li>Routine practices</li> </ul>
	Patients <b>without</b> respiratory symptoms and absence of risk factors for COVID-19	Undergoing evaluation/ treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand hygiene</li> </ul>

Response outside health centre – home visit	Allied health-care workers	Performing evaluation/ treatment for patient <b>without</b> respiratory symptoms and absence of COVID-19 risk factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand hygiene, using alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) of at least 70%.</li> <li>• As per routine, providers should bring a change of footwear and limit touching of objects and surfaces in the patients' home</li> <li>• Routine practices</li> </ul>
	Patient <b>without</b> respiratory symptoms and absence of risk factors for COVID-19	Undergoing evaluation/ treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand hygiene</li> </ul>
All patient care areas	Environmental services	Cleaning and decontamination of patient care areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine cleaning, any equipment shared between patients must be cleaned and disinfected **</li> </ul>

\*\* Additional information on appropriate cleaning practices in the medical offices can be found here – Clinical guidance documents: [www.yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/health-concerns-diseases-and-conditions/find-information-health-professionals](http://www.yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/health-concerns-diseases-and-conditions/find-information-health-professionals)

If your patient has symptoms or risk factors for COVID and requires urgent evaluation and treatment or further urgent assessment that is not feasible via virtual health, please discuss case with YCDC or refer the patient to the emergency department. If YCDC agrees that the evaluation and treatment cannot be postponed until the patient is asymptomatic and/or out of self-isolation, please follow the following recommendations for practice and PPE. Please note if your facility does not have the appropriate PPE available to manage the patient, please refer to a facility with access to PPE or the emergency department.

Screening/ triage area	Screener/administrative staff	Screening or greeting a patient, not involving direct contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain at least 2 metres separation or</li> <li>• Behind plexiglass</li> </ul>
	Patient <b>with</b> respiratory symptoms or risk factors for COVID-19	Being screened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand hygiene</li> <li>• Surgical/procedural mask</li> <li>• Give tissues for respiratory hygiene</li> <li>• Maintain at least 2 metres distance</li> <li>• Assure safe disposal of used tissues</li> </ul>
Clinical space	All staff	Tasks that do not involve patient contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain at least 2 metres separation</li> <li>• Regular practices of respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene</li> </ul>
Waiting room	Patients <b>with</b> respiratory symptoms and/or presence of risk factors for COVID-19*	Waiting for evaluation/treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand hygiene</li> <li>• Surgical/procedural mask</li> <li>• Respiratory etiquette</li> <li>• If possible, isolate in room or in a designated area. If not feasible, maintain at least 2 metres from other patients</li> </ul>
Consultation room	Allied health-care workers	Performing evaluation/treatment for patient <b>with</b> respiratory symptoms and/or risk factors for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand hygiene</li> <li>• Droplet and contact precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• surgical/procedural mask</li> <li>• Gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Goggles or face shield</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

\* Patients with respiratory symptoms and/or risk factors for COVID-19 are encouraged to use the self-assessment test online, call 811 or visit the Respiratory Assessment Centre (RAC) for further evaluation. Those in the community with symptoms and/or risk factors for COVID-19 are encouraged to call the community health centre for special arrangements.

Consultation room	Patients <b>with</b> respiratory symptoms and/or presence of risk factors for COVID-19	Undergoing evaluation/treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand hygiene</li> <li>• Surgical/procedural mask</li> <li>• Respiratory etiquette</li> </ul>
Response outside facility or home visit	Allied health-care workers	Performing evaluation/treatment for patient <b>with</b> respiratory symptoms and/or risk factors for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand hygiene</li> <li>• **** Droplet and contact precautions donned and doffed in the home, at a distance of greater than 2 meters from the client: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/procedural mask</li> <li>• Gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Goggles or face shield</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Patients <b>with</b> respiratory symptoms and/or presence of risk factors for COVID-19	Undergoing evaluation/treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand hygiene</li> <li>• Surgical/procedural mask</li> <li>• Respiratory etiquette</li> </ul>
All patient care areas	Environmental services	Cleaning and decontamination of patient care areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine cleaning, any equipment shared between patients must be cleaned and disinfected ***</li> </ul>

\*\*\* Be sure to properly dispose of contaminated items. For additional information, please visit:

[www.yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/hss/hss-imgs/covid\\_19\\_guidance\\_for\\_community\\_nursing\\_health\\_centres\\_final\\_march\\_31\\_2020.pdf](http://www.yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/hss/hss-imgs/covid_19_guidance_for_community_nursing_health_centres_final_march_31_2020.pdf)

\*\*\*\* For detailed information on PPE use with contact and droplet precautions in the home setting, please see Appendix B – PPE in

[www.yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/covid-19\\_public\\_health\\_management\\_of\\_cases\\_and\\_contacts\\_final\\_march31.pdf](http://www.yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/covid-19_public_health_management_of_cases_and_contacts_final_march31.pdf)