



Recommended Practices and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Medical Clinics, Outpatient Facilities and Home Visits – Interim Guidance 14/12/20

Phase 1–2: No evidence of community spread

The following are interim guidelines for the use of PPE in the medical clinic/outpatient facility. Given the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in Yukon, COVID-19 is a risk factor that should be considered for each patient evaluation. Therefore, each patient encounter should be evaluated based on risk factors for COVID-19. The presence or absence of symptoms and/or exposure risks will direct the provider or staff member to the recommended PPE for that particular encounter.

Screening questions: https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/covid-19_screening_questions_for_cn_md_clinics_mass_imms_oct_2020_final.pdf

Responding “yes” to any of the above questions will indicate the need for augmentation of Routine Practices. Please note, at this time we recommend all staff in clinical areas to wear continuously a surgical/procedural mask. Administrative staff and those without direct patient contact should wear a medical mask. If a patient/client arrives without a non-medical mask, please give them a medical mask to wear.

- Masks should be worn continuously while in the workplace. Masks can be used for an extended period of time while seeing different patients.
- Masks should not be re-used.
- Masks should be changed when:
 - o Damaged
 - o Wet or visibly soiled
 - o After caring for a patient in droplet or droplet/contact precautions and before caring for a patient not in precautions
 - o Between patients cared for in droplet or droplet/contact precautions for different viruses (e.g. one patient has COVID-19 and the other has Influenza)
- For more information, see existing guidance documents PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)- extended use mask guidelines available at <https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/health-concerns-diseases-and-conditions/find-information-health-professionals>.

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.”¹ 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).

¹ “Routine practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in healthcare settings.” 2017-09-05. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/nosocomial-occupational-infections/routine-practices-additional-precautions-preventing-transmission-infection-healthcare-settings.html>

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 three pages indicate the appropriate PPE for patient care based on target personnel and activity. If there are no COVID-19 symptoms or exposure risks (the patient responds NO to the screening questions), continue Routine Practices relevant for the intended interaction.

If the patient responds YES, the patient can be safely seen in office for evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of an illness with the staff wearing PPE as outlined in the table. Consideration can be given to defer the visit for routine care, non-urgent cases such as seasonal influenza vaccine. Providers are encouraged to re-book patient at time of deferral of visit.

Appropriate PPE for patient care for medical clinics and outpatient facilities, based on target personnel and activity.

Key:



Patients



Staff



Environmental Services

Target space	Target personnel	Activity/Interaction	Recommended practices
Screening/ triage area	Staff	Screening or greeting a patient, not involving direct contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain at least 2 metres separation or Behind plexiglass Surgical/procedural mask
	Patients	Being screened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand hygiene Surgical/procedural mask Give tissues for respiratory hygiene Maintain at least 2 metres distance Assure safe disposal of used tissues
	Patients	Being screened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand hygiene Non-medical mask Maintain at least 2 metres distance
Clinical space	Staff	Tasks that do not involve patient contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain at least 2 metres separation Hand hygiene Surgical/procedural mask
Waiting room	Patients	Waiting for medical evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand hygiene Surgical/procedural mask Respiratory etiquette If possible, isolate in room or in a designated area. If not feasible, maintain at least 2 metres from other patients
	Patients	Waiting for medical evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand hygiene Non-medical mask Maintain at least 2 metres between other patients

* Those in a rural community with symptoms of COVID-19 are encouraged to call their community health centre for special arrangements.

Consultation room	Healthcare workers	Performing a physical examination of patient who responds YES to screening questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Droplet and contact precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical/procedural mask • Gown • Gloves • Goggles or face shield
	Healthcare workers	Performing physical examination of patient who responds NO to screening questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Surgical/procedural mask • Routine Practices including a POC risk assessment
	Healthcare workers	Performing an AGMP on a patient who responds YES to screening questions ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Airborne + droplet/contact precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N95 mask • Gown • Gloves • Goggles or face shield
	Patient responds YES to screening questions	Undergoing a medical evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Surgical/procedural mask • Respiratory etiquette
	Patient responds NO to screening questions	Undergoing a medical evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Non-medical mask
All patient care areas	Environmental services	Cleaning and decontamination of patient care areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine cleaning, any equipment shared between patients must be cleaned and disinfected**

**Additional information on appropriate cleaning practices in the medical offices can be found here: <https://yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/health-concerns-diseases-and-conditions/find-information-health-professionals>

²AGMP – aerosol generating medical procedure: include – intubation, open airway suctioning, CPR with bag valve mask ventilation, bronchoscopy and bronchoalveolar lavage, sputum induction, nebulized therapy and non-invasive positive pressure ventilation (CPAP, BIPAP). Note: these are NOT recommended in the office setting. For more information, please visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/reports-publications/covid-19-aerosol-generating-medical-procedures.pdf>

Response outside medical clinic or outpatient facility – on-scene response or home visit	Health-care workers	Performing a physical examination of patient responding YES to screening questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Droplet and contact precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical/procedural mask • Gown • Gloves • Goggles or face shield <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use designated “swab box” if swabbing for COVID-19, if applicable
	Health-care workers	Performing physical examination of patient responding NO to the screening questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Surgical/procedural mask • Routine Practices including a POC risk assessment
	Health-care workers	Performing an AGMP on a patient responding YES to the screening questions ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Airborne + droplet/contact precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N95 respirator • Gown • Gloves • Goggles or face shield
	Patients responding YES to screening questions	Undergoing a medical evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Surgical/procedural mask • Respiratory etiquette
	Patients responding NO to screening questions	Undergoing a medical evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Non-medical mask
	Environmental services	Cleaning and decontamination of patient care areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine cleaning, any equipment shared between patients must be cleaned and disinfected** • Be sure to dispose of used, contaminated PPE in the proper receptacle