



Recommended Practices and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Yukon Community Health Centres – Interim Guidance 24/4/20

Phase 1–2: No evidence of community spread

The following are interim guidelines for the use of PPE in community health centres. 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. The presence or absence of risk factors will direct the provider or staff member to the recommended PPE for that particular encounter.

Risk factors for COVID-19:

- Presence of any of the following symptoms: fever and/or chills, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, hoarse voice, headache, runny nose or nasal congestion (not otherwise explained), gastrointestinal symptoms such as diarrhea or vomiting (not otherwise explained), fatigue/muscle aches or loss of sense of taste and/or smell **AND**
 - Symptom onset within 14 days of all international and out-of-Yukon travel **OR**
 - Symptom onset within 14 days of close contact of symptomatic travelers (close prolonged contact or direct contact with respiratory secretions)
- Presence of any of the following in a person without history of sick contact or travel: fever and/or chills, cough, difficulty breathing

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.”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).

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

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/publications/diseases-conditions/routine-practices-precautions-healthcare-associated-infections/part-a.html> Accessed 2020-04-20.



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
- Visual cues of signage with stop signs on sandwich board outside the health centre
- Plexiglass barrier for administrative staff, screeners
- Duct tape or other visual cue indicating appropriate spacing between patients
- Removing some seating in the waiting rooms to support safe distancing
- Staggering scheduled appointments in order to maximize capacity for physical distancing in the health centre

The table on the next four pages indicates 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 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
	Patients with respiratory symptoms or risk factors for COVID-19	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 Send to designated separate waiting area
	Patients without respiratory symptoms or risk factors for COVID-19	Being screened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand hygiene Maintain at least 2 metres distance
Clinical space	All staff	Tasks that do not involve patient contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain at least 2 metres separation Regular practices of respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene
Waiting room	Patients with respiratory symptoms and/or presence of risk factors for COVID-19*	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 without respiratory symptoms and absence of risk factors for COVID-19	Waiting for medical evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand hygiene Maintain at least 2 metres between other patients

*Patients with respiratory symptoms and/or risk factors for COVID-19 are encouraged to use the self-assessment test online or call 811. For non-urgent concerns, clients in the community are encouraged to schedule an appointment time prior to coming to the health centre. Health centres should be calling all booked appointments 24 hours in advance and asking the COVID-19 screening questions.

Consultation room	Healthcare workers	Performing a physical examination of patient with respiratory symptoms and/or risk factors for COVID-19	<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: Swab in a designated “lean” room whenever possible. This step does not apply to health centres solely delivering public health services unless pre-approved to be involved in swabbing practices.</p>
	Healthcare workers	Performing physical examination of patient without respiratory symptoms and absence of COVID-19 risk factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Routine Practices including a POC risk assessment
	Healthcare workers	Performing an AGMP on a patient with respiratory symptoms and/or risk factors for COVID-19 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 <p>Note: In ER, protect open cupboards by covering with curtain/sheet</p>
	Patient with respiratory symptoms and/or presence of risk factors for COVID-19	Undergoing a medical evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Surgical/procedural mask • Respiratory etiquette
	Patient without respiratory symptoms and absence of risk factors for COVID-19	Undergoing a medical evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene

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** • If an AGMP has occurred in the room, the cleaner should wear a properly fitted N95 mask. If not, close the room door for two hours and place an “out of order” sign on door. After two hours have passed, clean room following routine procedure
Response outside health centre – on scene response or home visit	Healthcare workers	Performing a physical examination of patient with respiratory symptoms and/or risk factors for COVID-19	<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
	Healthcare workers	Performing physical examination of patient without respiratory symptoms and absence of COVID-19 risk factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Routine Practices including a POC risk assessment

**Additional information on appropriate cleaning practices in the medical offices can be found here:

https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/hss/hss-imgs/covid_19_guidance_for_community_nursing_health_centres_final_march_31_2020.pdf

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	Patient with respiratory symptoms and/or presence of risk factors for COVID-19	Undergoing a medical evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene • Surgical/procedural mask • Respiratory etiquette
	Patient without respiratory symptoms and absence of risk factors for COVID-19	Undergoing a medical evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene
	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

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²AGMP – aerosol generating medical procedure: include – intubation including placement of a King Airway, 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: To be conducted in community health centres only for emergent treatment. For further 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>