

**IC6: 0600 Droplet/ Contact Precautions**

**1.0 STANDARD**

All residents known or suspected of a condition that is transmissible by droplet and direct or indirect contact route will be cared for using Droplet/Contact Precautions in addition to routine practices.

Examples of conditions requiring Contact Precautions include:

- Respiratory illness
- Gastroenteritis when vomiting is present

**2.0 DEFINITION**

Direct Contact transmission occurs when transfer of microorganisms' results from direct physical contact between an infected individual and a susceptible host (body surface to body surface). Examples include soiled hands or gloves.

In-direct Contact involves passive transfer of microorganisms to a susceptible host. Examples include shared equipment and the environment.

**3.0 PROCEDURE**

<b>Room</b>	A single room is preferred with a private toilet or designated commode. When private room is unavailable, draw curtains around resident.
<b>Door</b>	May remain open.
<b>Signage</b>	Droplet/Contact Precaution signage at the entrance to the room and at the bed space in a multi-bed room.
<b>Masks/ Eye protection</b>	When within 2 meters of the resident
<b>Gloves</b>	For all entries into the residents environment
<b>Long-sleeved Gowns</b>	For all entries into the residents environment
<b>Hand Hygiene</b>	Before and after contact with resident and their environment before aseptic procedure, after contact with body fluids
<b>Resident Equipment</b>	Dedicate to the resident, or clean and disinfect after use

## Infection Control Manual – Residential Care

### Part 3 – Infection Control Standards

#### IC6: Infection Control Requirements

<b>Resident Transfers</b>	Transport for essential purposes only. Notify receiving health care facility and ambulance service.
<b>Resident Activities</b>	Participation in group activities should be restricted during active infection and per pathogen specific recommendations in Appendix I
<b>Resident Hand Hygiene</b>	Resident should perform hand hygiene and be assisted as necessary when leaving their environment and after toileting and before meals
<b>Housekeeping</b>	See Environmental Hygiene: Housekeeping, Additional Precautions

### Room Set up

Attention will be paid to the role of fomites in transmission. Consideration should be given to provide washable surfaces in the resident's room.

- Horizontal surfaces should be washable (no carpeting if possible)
- Furnishings and coverings should be washable
- Plastic cover on mattress
- Washable blankets, bedspreads, curtains
- Wall surfaces, paint and wallpaper should be washable
- Call bell cords and light pull cords should be made of a smooth washable material

### Equipment

Whenever possible, equipment shall be dedicated to the resident's exclusive use such as;

- BP cuff
- Stethoscope
- Thermometer
- **Bedpan, urinal, commode**
- Wheelchair
- Sling for the lifting device (preferably the whole device)
- Transfer belt

### Non-dedicated Equipment

Equipment which cannot be dedicated for individual use must be appropriately cleaned and disinfected before being removed from the room and used by another resident.

### **Supplies**

- Avoid overstocking items in resident rooms
- At entrance to the room have the following supplies:
  - Hospital-grade disinfectant wipes (store away from access by the resident)
- Personal Protective Equipment such as disposable gloves and long-sleeved gowns and masks and eye protection. The following items should be supplied in the resident's room:
  - Dedicated personal care supplies such as periwash, periwipes, mouthwash, shampoo, creams lotions etc.
  - Garbage can with plastic liners
  - Laundry hampers. Double bagging is not required
  - Alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) or liquid hand soap and paper towels at the hand washing sink

### **Waste, Laundry, Dishes and Cutlery:**

No special precautions are required; routine practices are sufficient

#### **4.0 Duration of Precautions:**

- Droplet/ Contact precautions can be discontinued after signs and symptoms of the infection have resolved or as per the pathogen specific recommendations in Appendix I
- Notify housekeeping to do an isolation terminal/discharge cleaning of the room/bedspace and bathroom prior to discontinuing precautions

#### **5.0 REFERENCES**

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). Routine practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in health care settings. 2012

Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). Routine practices and additional precautions in all health care settings, 3rd edition. 2012