IC6: 0500 Droplet Precautions

1.0 STANDARD

All residents who are known or suspected of being infected with a condition transmissible via the droplet route will be cared for using Droplet Precautions.

Examples of conditions requiring Droplet Precautions include:
- Pertussis

Note: Some conditions or specific infections warrant Droplet/Contact precautions

Droplet transmission refers to infections that are transmitted when large droplets generated from the source resident come in contact with the eyes, nose or mouth of a susceptible host.

Transmission can occur when the host stands within 2 meters of a coughing/sneezing resident or when contaminated hands touch the hosts eyes, nose or mouth.

2.0 PROCEDURE

| Room | A single room is preferred. When unavailable, maintain a distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) between residents Privacy curtain should be pulled |
| Door | May remain open |
| Signage | Droplet Precaution signage at the entrance to the room and at the bed space in a multi-bed room. |
| Masks / Eye wear | Procedure mask and protective eye wear worn within 2 metres (6 feet) of resident |
| Gloves | Follow routine practice, unless contact precautions are also in place, then follow contact precautions as well |
| Long-sleeved Gowns | Follow routine practice |
| Hand Hygiene | Before and after contact with resident and their environment before aseptic procedure, after contact with body fluids |
| Resident Equipment | Dedicate to the resident, or clean and disinfect after use |
Resident Transfers
Transport for essential purposes only. Resident to wear a procedure mask during transport, if non-compliant to masking, the transport staff to wear a mask. Notify receiving health care facility and ambulance service.

Resident Hand Hygiene
Resident should perform hand hygiene and be assisted as necessary before leaving their rooms, after toileting and before meals.

Resident Activities
Participation in group activities should be restricted while the resident is symptomatic and per pathogen specific recommendations in Appendix I.

Housekeeping
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
- 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:
  - Low level 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

### 3.0 Duration of Precautions
- Droplet precautions can be discontinued after signs and symptoms of the infection have resolved or as per the pathogen specific recommendations per pathogen specific recommendations in Appendix I
- Notify housekeeping to do an isolation terminal/discharge cleaning of the room or bed space including bathroom prior to discontinuation of precautions

### 4.0 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