

Purpose

This document provides Infection Prevention and Control guidance on selection, placement and cleaning of isolation carts and other personal protective equipment (PPE) holders.

Scope

This document is applicable to all Fraser Health owned, operated, and affiliated long-term care (LTC) and assisted living (AL) providers.

Criteria for acceptable Isolation Carts and other PPE Holders in LTC/AL

- Select commercially manufactured mobile isolation carts or other PPE holders with:
 - Adequate storage space for the required PPE (e.g. different sizes of gloves, gowns and masks), disinfectant wipes, and alcohol based hand rub (ABHR)
 - Smooth, easy-to-clean and non-shedding surfaces such as stainless steel, ABS or PVC (including shelving or drawers)
 - The ability to withstand repeated cleaning with hospital-grade disinfectants
 - Optimal ergonomic design (e.g., waist height for carts)
- Consult IPC about placement and number of carts required. Depending on the site layout and size of the cart, one isolation cart for up to three or four rooms may be acceptable. Wall-mounted PPE holders are recommended in sites with narrow hallways and space limitations. Availability of designated storage areas should be taken into account when selecting carts/PPE holders.

Decision Making Table

Type of Isolation Carts/PPE Holders	Criteria For Recommendation
Metal isolation carts on wheels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meets ergonomic requirement for height ▪ Lockable to prevent unauthorized access ▪ IPC best practice recommendation
Wall-mounted PPE holders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ideally suited for narrow hallways ▪ Easy to use (standing height) and easy to clean ▪ Subject to available wall space between rooms (e.g., not encumbered by wall art) <p>Consult site FMO regarding mounting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drilling through walls in older buildings may not recommended due to asbestos concerns ▪ Drilling requires caution due to potential for electrical wiring behind the walls ▪ May not be suitable for installation in BSTN units due to injury concerns
Plastic storage drawers on wheels	<p>Not as durable as isolation carts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possible breakdown from frequent cleaning and disinfection ▪ Smaller height and sizes make it challenging for staff to use ▪ Consider for use if no other options available, in consultation with IPC
Door-mounted PPE holders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generally not recommended. Consider for use if no other options available, in consultation with IPC ▪ Can hide the door signage

Multi-purpose open rolling carts without drawers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lack dedicated safe storage space for PPEs▪ Not enclosed; may lead to contamination of PPE▪ Generally not recommended. Consider for use if no other options available, in consultation with IPC
Door caddies (soft material)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Not easy to clean and disinfect▪ Can hide the door signage▪ Higher potential of contamination by residents▪ Generally not recommended. Consider for use if no other options available, in consultation with IPC
Tables and chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ PPE supplies are not protected▪ Not recommended.

Examples of Isolations Carts and Other PPE Holders

The following are some examples of isolation carts and PPE storage systems being used in LTC and AL. Follow the [Decision Making Table](#) to determine the best suitable option(s) for the site.

1) Isolation Carts on Wheels

[Harloff](#) Carts

- Ideal height-dimensions: 40.75" H x 19.25" W x 19.75" D



[MJM](#) Isolation Cart (Cardinal Health)

- Ideal height-dimensions: 46" H x 26" W x 15.75"

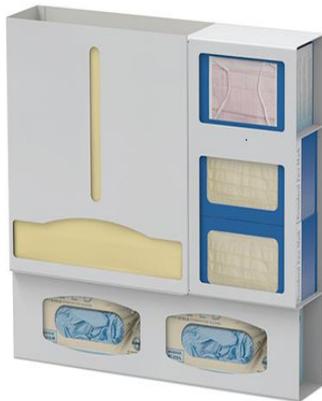


2) Wall-Mounted PPE Dispensing Systems

[Bowman](#) PPE Dispensers



[Waterloo](#) Healthcare Isolation Station



[Medline](#) Isolation Protection Organizer Case



3. Storage Drawers



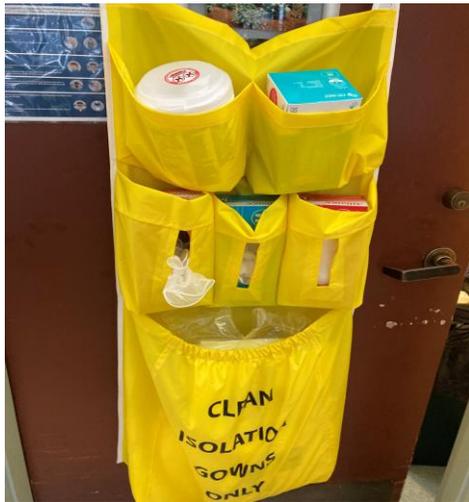
3) Door-Mounted PPE System



4) Multipurpose Open Rolling Carts Without Drawers

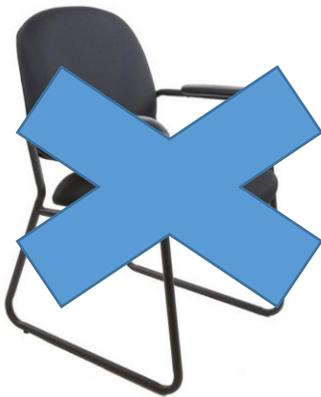


5) Door Caddies for PPE Storage



6) Chairs and Tables

- Not recommended as PPE supplies are not protected



Cleaning Procedures for Isolation Carts and PPE Holders

- Regular cleaning schedule should be in place for cleaning and disinfection of all isolation carts in use
- During outbreaks and enhanced monitoring exterior of the carts must be cleaned twice a day and interior surfaces (drawers) at least once daily
- Hospital-grade one-step cleaner/disinfectants with shorter contact times (e.g. Oxivir TB wipes, Accel Intervention wipes) is recommended

References

- Alberta Health Services (2020). Selection and Management (Maintenance, Handling, and Cleaning) of Isolation Carts. Retrieved March 1, 2021 from <https://albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/hi-ipc-selection-management-isolation-carts.pdf>
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- Fraser Health Authority (2021). Guidance for Storage of PPE and Clean Supplies in LTC and AL [Guidelines].
- Occupational Health and Safety Agency for Healthcare (2005). Using Carts in Healthcare: A Resource Guide for Reducing Musculoskeletal Injury (MSI). Retrieved from: <https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/docs/UsingCartsInHealthcare.pdf>