

Contact and Droplet Precautions for Isolation Rooms during COVID-19 for Community Physicians and Teams

This guide is relevant for primary care providers and specialists within the community setting, as well as their teams. During the COVID-19 pandemic, isolation rooms should be used in the community setting for patients presenting with Influenza-like Illness (ILI).

Prior to contact with a patient with ILI symptoms, conduct a [Point of Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\)](#). As well as wearing a [surgical/procedural mask and eye protection continuously](#), staff should continue to use [Routine Practices](#) for all patients at all times, which includes a PCRA.

Triage Instructions

If a patient presents with any ILI symptoms (e.g., self-reported and or documented fever, cough, sore throat, dyspnea, or additional respiratory symptoms or myalgia or fatigue), immediately have patient wash hands and put on procedure mask (if not already masked). For pediatric patients who do not tolerate a mask, cover them with a blanket or have them cuddle with care provider, minimizing exposure to others.

Accommodation

- As quickly as possible, implement [Contact and Droplet Precautions](#) and place patient in a designated isolation room:
 - Dedicated exam room with closeable door, as close as possible to entrance to limit traffic, is recommended whenever possible. Where possible, a separate entrance would be ideal
 - Have a [Contact and Droplet Precautions Sign](#) visible on entry to room or dedicated space
- Strict adherence to point-of-care risk assessment, hand hygiene, appropriate use of [personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) and appropriate [Environmental Cleaning Guidelines](#) is required
- Dedicated isolation exam room should double bag garbage to prevent leaks
- Review the [PPE Checklist](#) for contact and droplet precautions and the proper procedures for [donning and doffing procedures](#). The most important thing is meticulous attention to detail

Note: If a community clinic is unable to dedicate a separate room with door to be an isolation room, clinic should contact their designated [Medical Officer of Health \(MOH\)](#) to determine steps for care of patients with symptoms.

Patient Ambulation Outside Room

- Patients should leave the exam room for essential purposes only
- Before patients leave the exam room, educate or assist them to:
 - Perform hand hygiene
 - Ensure patient is still wearing the procedure/surgical mask (for pediatric patients who do not tolerate a mask, cover them with a blanket or have them cuddle with care provider)

Contact and Droplet Precautions for Isolation Rooms in Primary Care • 2

Cleaning of Isolation Room

- After patient leaves, clean and disinfect the room and equipment
- Follow cleaning guidelines and recommendations in the [Environmental Cleaning Guidelines during COVID-19 for Community Physicians and Teams](#) document

For more information or clarification, community physicians can email: phc@ahs.ca.