

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19  
COMMITTEE**

**Bulletin #176b - COVID-19 - ID-IPC – Revision of IPC Guidance Documents - Oct 14 2021**

## **COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Guidance Documents**

### **New: IPC Guidance Management of Patient Exposures to COVID-19**

IPC guidelines for the management of patient exposures to COVID-19 was developed to ensure the safety of patients and healthcare workers when an outbreak has not been declared. The document provided guidance on the following processes:

- Management of HCWs exposed to a COVID-19 positive Healthcare Worker (HCW)/Patient
- Management of Patients exposed to a COVID-19 positive Healthcare Worker (HCW)/Patient
- Patient Placement
- COVID-19 Testing
- Additional IPC Measures

### **Revised: Outbreak Management of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)**

The IPC guidance document on Outbreak Management of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) was revised to clarify patient management, isolation requirements and HCW / volunteer / Student and Visitor restrictions. The document includes details on post exposure testing protocols and the disclosure process for notification of inpatients/substitute decision maker of the exposure situation and of testing requirements.

### **Revised: Infection Prevention & Control Guidance: Operating Room Theatres and OR Decision Pathway for Horizon Facilities in a Red Phase**

Revisions made to the OR Decision Pathway for facilities in a Red Phase include the following:

- Routine PCR testing is not recommended for screening asymptomatic fully vaccinated patients with no risk factors due to the high uptake of COVID-19 vaccine in New Brunswick.
- Obtain COVID-19 swab for patients who meet the following testing criteria: those who are symptomatic, those who are not fully vaccinated, those with close contact with a known case/travel from a higher risk area, and/or those from a facility cluster.

The preoperative instructions, including the testing criteria for COVID-19 swabs remain the same as per the Operating Room Theatres and OR Decision Pathway for Horizon Facilities in an Orange Phase.

**Revised: [Ambulatory Care/Outpatient Services During COVID-19 - All Phases](#) and [Gastroenterology Endoscopy Units During COVID-19 - All Phases](#)**

The requirement to complete a pre-procedure COVID-19 screening questionnaire within 72 hrs of procedure when appointments are booked has been removed from these guidance documents.

**Revised: [IPC Guidance: Continuous Use of Medical Grade Face Masks and Eye Protection for Full Shifts in Healthcare Settings During COVID-19 Pandemic – All Phases](#)**

Revisions were made to the IPC Guidance for the Continuous Use of Medical Grade Face Masks and Eye Protection to include the following:

### **Red Phase**

- All HCWs working in high-risk clinical settings (i.e. COVID-19 units, ERs, All ICUs, ORs, and COVID-19 Assessment Centres) will wear facial protection (medical grade face mask and eye protection (goggles/face shield) continuously, at all times when providing patient care as well as when providing indirect patient care, while in patient room such as meal delivery and environmental services when a physical barrier (i.e., plexiglass) is not in place to prevent transmission of droplets.
- All HCWs working in non-high risk clinical settings will wear facial protection (medical grade face mask and eye protection (safety glasses) continuously, at all times when providing patient care as well as when providing indirect patient care, while in patient room such as meal delivery and environmental services when a physical barrier (i.e., plexiglass) is not in place to prevent transmission of droplets.
- The continuous use of eye protection (Safety Glasses) is optional for HCWs working in non-clinical settings.

### **Outbreak Facility/Unit**

- All HCWs working in high-risk clinical settings in an outbreak facility (i.e. COVID-19 units, ERs, All ICUs, ORs, and COVID-19 Assessment Centres) will wear facial protection (medical grade face mask and eye protection (goggles/face shield) continuously, at all times in all areas of their workplace when a physical barrier (i.e., plexiglass) is not in place to prevent transmission of droplets.
- All HCWs working in an outbreak unit will wear facial protection (medical grade face mask and eye protection (goggles/face shield) continuously, at all times in all areas of their workplace when a physical barrier (i.e., plexiglass) is not in place to prevent transmission of droplets.
- All HCWs working in non-high risk clinical settings and non-clinical settings in an outbreak facility will wear facial protection (medical grade face mask and eye

protection (safety glasses) continuously, at all times in all areas of their workplace when a physical barrier (i.e., plexiglass) is not in place to prevent transmission of droplets.

**On hold: IPC Guidance Hair Salons, Barber and Hairstylist Services**

These services were approved only for the Yellow Phase and are suspended in Orange and Red Phases.

**On hold: Inpatient Passes/Leave of Absences During COVID-19, General Visitations and Volunteer Services.**

These services are suspended in Red Phase.

**No revision: IPC Guidance and Requirements**

No changes required during the Red Phase for the following:

- Healthcare Workers Passive Screening
- Delivery of Electroconvulsive Therapy During COVID-19
- Physical Distancing in Waiting Rooms, in Cafeterias/ Departmental Lunchrooms, and in meeting rooms/amphitheatres
- DSP program will continue in accordance with the revised DSP Guidelines and in alignment with the IPC Guidance for compassionate visitation.

Please visit the [IPC Resources COVID-19 Skyline page](#) for COVID-19 information.