

# Point-of-Care-Risk Assessment (PCRA)

The PCRA is a routine practice which should be conducted before every patient/client/resident (hereafter 'patient') interaction by a health-care worker (HCW) to assess the likelihood of exposing themselves and/or others to infectious agents. This assessment informs the selection of appropriate actions and personal protective equipment (PPE) to minimize the risk of exposure. This is a general tool. The questions and actions may need to be adapted for specific health-care settings and roles.

## 1 Before each patient interaction, a health-care worker must assess the following:



### The patient

- What are the patient's symptoms (e.g., frequent coughing or sneezing)?
- Does the patient require additional precautions (droplet, contact, airborne) for infectious agents?
- What is the patient's health status (e.g., immunocompromised)?
- Is the patient able to practice respiratory etiquette and perform hand hygiene?



### The task

- What type of task am I carrying out (e.g., providing direct face-to-face care, performing an aerosol generating medical procedure (AGMP), coming into contact with body fluids, personal care, non-clinical interaction)?
- Am I trained, equipped and ready for the task?



### The environment

- Where am I doing my task?
- Is there triage or screening?
- Is the patient in a separate room? Is the bathroom shared?
- Is there cleaning and disinfection?

## 2 Choose appropriate actions and PPE including the following:

- Hand hygiene** (e.g., before and after a task, before and after PPE use, before and after contact with patient).
- Respiratory etiquette** (e.g., support patient to cover their coughs with a tissue or their elbow).
- Patient placement** (e.g., prioritize a patient with risks for infectious agents for a single occupancy room where possible).
- Environmental and equipment cleaning and disinfection** (e.g., clean and disinfect re-usable equipment between each use).
- Implement additional precautions if required** (e.g., droplet and contact precautions for COVID-19).
- Select appropriate pieces of PPE**, as outlined below.

### Selecting PPE

Wear a **medical mask** as per the provincial mask use in health-care settings policy.  
If **additional precautions** (e.g., droplet, contact, airborne) are in place, put on all required PPE.

Could my hands be exposed to blood or body fluids?

Yes



Wear gloves

Could my eyes or face be splashed/sprayed with blood or body fluids?

Yes



Wear medical mask and eye protection

Could my clothing or skin come into contact with blood or body fluids, including splashes/sprays?

Yes



Wear gown

Is there a risk of airborne transmission (e.g., tuberculosis, performing an AGMP on a patient with COVID-19 risk)?

Yes



Wear N95 respirator or equivalent\*

Access to additional PPE, such as respirators, will be provided in circumstances where a HCW determines there is elevated risk of COVID-19 transmission through patient interaction. Follow additional measures outlined in local health authority guidelines for performing AMGPs to minimize risk. \*HCW must be fit-tested.

