

Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)

The point of care risk assessment (PCRA) is a routine practice which should be conducted before every patient/client/resident (hereafter 'patient') interaction by a trained 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, an HCW must assess the following:



THE PATIENT

- What are the patient's symptoms (e.g., frequent coughing or sneezing)?
- Does the patient require additional precautions (contact/droplet/airborne) for other diseases?
- 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), 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 client in a separate room? Is the bathroom shared?
- Can physical distancing be maintained?
- Is there adequate environmental 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 separation** (e.g., prioritize the patient for a single room).
- Physical distancing** (e.g., encourage patient to maintain a 2 metre physical distance if direct care is not involved).
- Environmental and equipment cleaning and disinfection** (e.g., clean 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 below and per the [Provincial Mask Use in Health Care Settings Policy](#).

Selecting PPE

Will my hands be exposed to blood or body fluids?

YES



Wear gloves

Will my eyes or face be splashed/sprayed with blood or body fluids?
Am I within 2 metres of a coughing or vomiting patient?

YES



Wear medical mask and eye protection

Will my clothing or skin be soiled from splashes/sprays or come into contact with blood or body fluids?

YES



Wear gown

Is the patient on airborne precautions (e.g., measles, tuberculosis)?
Am I performing an AGMP on a patient with COVID-19 risk?

YES



Wear N95 respirator or equivalent*

*HCW must be fit-tested and trained in performing the [aerosol-generating medical procedure](#) (AGMP).

