## Infection Prevention and Control Guidance

### Screening

Client should be screened for symptoms and exposure criteria for COVID-19 using the following tools:

- Call and pre-screen client (and household members) prior to scheduled visits using the applicable screening tool (SHA 0054 Community-Home COVID-19 Screening Form)
- Use site specific Home Care Work Standards
- Clients and their household members should have an alternative plan in the event that Home Care is unable to provide service and know who to contact should their condition worsen

### Triage and Client Access Points

- Upon arrival always perform a Point of Care Risk Assessment before every clinical encounter regardless of COVID-19 status: Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) and masks should be readily available at point-of-use
- Home safety risk assessment is completed for each client to determine whether the client environment is suitable for Home Care services
- Household members maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from staff during the visit
- Consider workflow practices to mitigate the risks of breaches in infection prevention and control measures (e.g., advance preparation of supplies)
- To the greatest extent possible health care workers (HCWs) should be assigned to either asymptomatic OR symptomatic clients and their household members. If this is not possible, HCWs should complete work with asymptomatic clients first before moving to those clients who are symptomatic

### Hand Hygiene

- HCWs, clients and household members should perform hand hygiene when indicated, preferably using an ABHR (70-90%) or plain liquid soap and water, if hands are visibly soiled. Use single disposable paper towel (if applicable)
- Education should be provided to clients and household members about how and when to perform hand hygiene
- Refer to SHA Hand Hygiene Policy

### Client Placement (No AGMP Required)

- Droplet/Contact Plus* precautions should be implemented for all clients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

### Performing Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs)

- Refer to SHA COVID-19 AGMP List and Risk Stratification Algorithm
- Avoid AGMPs as much as possible. If possible, convert to Metered Dose Inhaler (MDI). Contact Most Responsible Provider (MRP) regarding medical need to continue CPAP and BiPAP
- If client is receiving AGMP, delay visit until after 2 hours post procedure
- If an AGMP is unavoidable, the number of HCWs should be limited to those necessary to perform the AGMP. An N95 respirator must be worn for the duration of the AGMP and within 2 hours post procedure
- Ensure the door is closed (bedroom or room where procedure is performed until 2 hours post procedure)

### Continuous Mask Use

- Follow Continuous Mask Use guidelines during work in the home where there will be direct or indirect contact with client and/or their household members

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- HCWs should bring adequate PPE with them to each visit
- PPE should not be stored in the client’s home
- PPE should be put on prior to entering the client’s home
- PPE should be removed and discarded at the doorway before leaving the client’s home or as per home care protocol.
- **Exception:** When an AGMP is performed, N95 respirator + facial/eye protection to be removed OUTSIDE of the home
## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19):
### Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Home Care Settings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAFF ATTIRE/PERSONAL ITEMS</th>
<th>• HCWs should refer to and follow the instructions for <strong>putting on (donning)</strong> and <strong>taking off (doffing)</strong> PPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLIENT TRANSPORT OUTSIDE OF HOME</td>
<td>• Refer to <a href="#">Ways to Stay Safe at Work</a> and <a href="#">Frontline Worker Safety Guide</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| CLIENT CARE ITEMS AND EQUIPMENT | • Client transport should be restricted to essential tests and procedures  
  • When transport is required:  
    o Notify the receiving facility and EMS prior to transport of the need for Droplet/Contact Plus* precautions  
    o HCW must maintain Droplet/Contact Plus* precautions during client transport.  
  • If clients must leave their home for medically necessary tests, they should:  
    o Perform hand hygiene  
    o Put on clean clothing  
    o Put on a procedure mask, if tolerated  
    o Minimize touching or contact of surfaces outside of room/home |
| ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING AND DISINFECTION | • Use disposable equipment when possible and discard at point-of-use  
  • Limit equipment brought into the home to that which is essential  
  • All reusable equipment and supplies should be dedicated to the use of the client until discontinuation of Droplet/Contact Plus* precautions  
  • If reusable equipment (e.g., BP monitor, stethoscope) cannot be dedicated for single client use, clean and disinfect thoroughly with a low-level disinfectant before reuse  
  • Items that cannot be appropriately cleaned and disinfected should be discarded  
  • Sharing of personal hygiene items (soap, cream or lotion, toothpaste, toothbrush, razor, including electric shaver, towel, nail and other oral care items) with household members is discouraged |
| LINEN AND DISHES | • Provide clients/household members with information on [COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Facilities](#)  
  • All surfaces or items, which are touched by or in contact with HCWs (e.g., computer screens, telephones, touch screens) should be cleaned at least daily and when soiled (Refer to [WS0001 Electronic Devices Cleaning Recommendations](#)) |
| WASTE MANAGEMENT | • Linen, towels, and clothing should be dedicated to one client, and stored separately from household members  
  • Wash laundry on the highest temperature using regular laundry detergent and dry thoroughly  
  • No sharing of food, drinks, dishes (drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils), and bedding |
| DISCONTINUATION OF PRECAUTIONS | • Discontinuation of precautions will be made by Public Health and/or the Medical Health Officer |
| HANDLING DECEASED BODIES | • Refer to the work standard for [Death, Care of the Body in PUI or Confirmed COVID-19](#) |
Additional Resources:
Government of Saskatchewan website: Video: Correct Donning and Doffing of Personal Protective Equipment

Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice: Saskatchewan guideline

References


https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/hi-ipc-emerging-issues-ncov.pdf

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) 2020 Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.


Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia (PICNet) (7 February 2020).