

## Point of Care Risk Assessment for COVID-19



A risk assessment must be performed with every patient interaction to determine appropriate infection control measures.

Risk Assessment with every patient/resident interaction includes:

- contamination of skin or clothing by microorganisms in the patient/resident environment
- exposure to blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, tissues
- exposure to non-intact skin
- exposure to mucous membranes
- exposure to contaminated equipment or surfaces

Refer to [Risk assessment Algorithm](#) ( need policy manager log in)

Each risk assessment requires the implementation of controls to prevent the spread of an infectious disease threat. The hierarchy of controls is a systematic approach for selecting the most effective preventive and protective measures to eliminate or reduce the risk of workplace hazards, including infectious agents. The controls, in descending level of efficacy and priority include: elimination, engineering controls, administrative controls and PPE. In many cases, a combination of controls will be necessary however the intent is that the highest levels of controls in the hierarchy will be used before lower levels of controls are considered.

A. Elimination – eliminate the risk whenever possible. E.g.

- Avoid performing aerosol generating procedure as much as possible on COVID suspect or COVID confirmed case.
- Delay/ postpone a non urgent procedure

B. Engineering Controls

- suitable structural barriers to protect HCWs doing triage in reception areas (e.g. clinics and emergency departments)
- Negative pressure room for AGMP or for infectious agents transmitted via airborne route where applicable

C. Administrative Controls

- education and training (see below for further baseline actions)
  - symptoms and mode of transmission for infectious diseases
  - use of routine practices and additional precautions
  - how to conduct a point of care risk assessment?
  - selection, use and limitations of PPE, including donning and doffing
  - purpose and importance of PPE
- cleaning, waste management and disinfection
- passive screening signage (languages appropriate for the organization)
- active screening (to be activated based on local or provincial direction)
- Isolation of patient in private room or cohorted with another patient with the same illness.
- use of signage to restrict people in the facility from accessing areas of heightened risk
- respiratory protection program

D. PPE

- PPE selected based on the results of the risk assessment and, the environmental working conditions, considering the presence/effectiveness of engineering and administrative controls. See chart below.

**PPE Requirements per Setting and Activity**

Setting	Activity	Type of PPE
Inpatient Facilities	Providing direct care to patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19	Droplet and Contact Precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/procedure mask</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>
	Aerosol-generating medical procedures performed on suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients	Airborne, Droplet and Contact precaution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal-checked)</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> <li>• Negative pressure room, if available</li> </ul>
Primary Care/Ambulatory Settings	Providing direct care to patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19	Droplet and Contact Precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/procedure mask</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>
	Aerosol-generating medical procedures performed on suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients	Airborne, Droplet and Contact precaution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal-checked)</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> <li>• Negative pressure room, if available</li> </ul>

Long-term Care	Providing direct care to patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19	Droplet and Contact Precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/procedure mask</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>
	Aerosol-generating medical procedures performed on suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients	Airborne, Droplet and Contact precaution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal-checked)</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> <li>• Negative pressure room, if available</li> </ul>
Community Care	Providing direct care to patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19	Droplet and Contact Precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical/procedure mask</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> </ul>
	Aerosol-generating medical procedures performed on suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients	Airborne, Droplet and Contact precaution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N95 respirator (fit-tested, seal-checked)</li> <li>• Isolation gown</li> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Eye protection (goggles or face shield)</li> <li>• Negative pressure room, if available</li> </ul>