



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
POLICY COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUÉ

TO: Health Authority Chief Executive Officers;
Provincial Coronavirus Coordination Committee;
COVID-19 Infection Prevention & Control/Workplace
Health Task Group.

TRANSMITTAL DATE: February 11, 2020

COMMUNIQUÉ 2020-01
NUMBER:

CLIFF NUMBER: 1154854

SUBJECT: Infection Prevention and Control for Novel Coronavirus
(COVID-19).


DETAILS: This document outlines Ministry of Health requirements for
preventing and controlling novel coronavirus in health
authorities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 11, 2020

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Stephen Brown
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Ministry of Health Policy

Infection Prevention and Control for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Policy Objective

- This policy protects patients, clinicians, health care workers and the public by outlining provincial expectations for the implementation of infection prevention and control practices to prevent and control novel coronavirus in health authority facilities, programs and services.

Definitions:

- **Shall:** A mandatory requirement based on Ministry of Health directive.
- **Should:** A recommended best practice for implementation at the discretion of health authorities.

Policy:

- Effective immediately, health authorities shall implement infection prevention and control guidance for novel coronavirus, as published by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

PHAC's guidance materials for novel coronavirus are available online at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/interim-guidance-acute-healthcare-settings.html>.

- Effective immediately, health authorities shall implement all supplemental infection prevention and control guidance and resource materials for novel coronavirus, as endorsed by the Provincial Coronavirus Coordination Committee.

All supplemental infection prevention and control guidance and resource materials within the scope of this policy are available online at:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/coronavirus-%28novel%29>.

- Please refer to Appendix A for a current listing of all COVID-19 guidance, supplemental guidance and resource materials within the scope of this policy.
- Effective immediately, health authorities shall work collaboratively to actively manage inventories of respirators (e.g., N95s) and other personal protective equipment to ensure high risk areas have adequate and appropriate supplies.

Appendix A

COVID-19 Guidance, Supplemental Guidance and Resource Materials for Implementation

- These tables will be updated and expanded as new infection prevention and control materials and resources are approved for implementation in BC.

COVID-19 Guidance

Available from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/interim-guidance-acute-healthcare-settings.html>.

Date Issued	Document Title	Current Document Version
February 11, 2020	Infection Prevention and Control for Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV): Interim Guidance for Acute Healthcare Settings.	See PHAC's website for the current document version.

Supplemental Guidance

Available from <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/coronavirus-%28novel%29>.

Date Issued	Document Title	Current Document Version
February 11, 2020	2019 Novel Coronavirus: Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures in Healthcare Settings.	2019NCOV_AGMP_V2_February 7 2020

Resource Materials

Available from <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/coronavirus-%28novel%29>.

Date Issued	Document Title	Current Document Version
February 11, 2020	Coronavirus Facility Information Poster.	2019NCOV_POSTER_001



2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)



AND



Do you have a FEVER, or NEW COUGH or DIFFICULTY BREATHING?

Have you or someone you know, travelled to China in the last 2 weeks?



Clean your hands



Put on a mask



Report to reception or a health care provider

2019 Novel Coronavirus: Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures in Healthcare Settings

This document provides details about Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs) specifically with regard to patients under investigation (PUI) for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The Public Health Agency of Canada has recommended that, in addition to routine precautions, healthcare workers (HCWs) follow droplet and contact precautions when caring for patients meeting clinical and exposure criteria for 2019-nCoV, unless performing an AGMP.

Patients with signs, symptoms and exposure criteria consistent with 2019-nCoV should be cared for under droplet and contact precautions, unless an AGMP is required.

AGMPs that generate small droplet nuclei in high concentration present a risk for airborne transmission of pathogens not otherwise able to spread by the airborne route (e.g., coronavirus, influenza). When performing AGMPs for a PUI including for the purpose of specimen collection, it is recommended to observe the following:

- Place patient in an AIIR (airborne infection isolation room) if possible, or in a single room that minimizes exposure to healthcare workers and other patients;
- Limit the number of HCWs to only those required for the procedure;
- Ensure HCWs performing or assisting with AGMP wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE): gown, gloves, a fit tested N95 respirator and eye protection (i.e. face shield);
- Observe appropriate hand hygiene, donning and doffing procedures.

AGMPs Requiring Respiratory Protection for 2019-nCoV Patients Under Investigation

Autopsies involving respiratory tissues
CPR with Bag valve mask ventilation
Bronchoscopy and bronchoalveolar lavage
Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) or bilevel positive airway pressure (BiPAP)
Intubation and extubation procedures
Nasopharyngeal aspirates, washes, and scoping*
Nebulized therapy
Open airway suctioning
Sputum Induction

* Nasopharyngeal (NP) and throat swabs can be performed using contact and droplet precautions with procedural mask and eye protection, and do not require the use of an N95 respirator. See [here](#) for more details.

IMPORTANT: this list is not exhaustive and includes common types of AGMPs. For scenarios not described, please contact your local Infection Prevention and Control team and/or the Medical Health Officer.

References:

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/transmission-based-precautions.html>
https://www.picnet.ca/wp-content/uploads/Respiratory-Infection-Outbreak-Guidelines-for-Healthcare-Facilities_November-2018.pdf