

Term	Definition
Additional Precautions (AP)	Precautions (i.e., Contact Precautions, Droplet Precautions and Airborne Precautions) that are necessary in addition to Routine Practices for certain pathogens or clinical presentations. These precautions are based on the method of transmission (e.g., contact, droplet, airborne).
Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR)	A room that is designed, constructed and ventilated to limit the spread of airborne microorganisms from an infected occupant to the surrounding areas of the health care setting. This is also known as a negative pressure room.
Airborne Precautions	Used in addition to Routine Practices for clients/patients/residents known or suspected of having an illness transmitted by the airborne route (i.e., by small droplet nuclei that remain suspended in the air and may be inhaled by others).
Alcohol-Based Hand Rub (ABHR)	A liquid, gel or foam formulation of alcohol (e.g., ethanol, isopropanol) which is used to reduce the number of microorganisms on hands in clinical situations when the hands are not visibly soiled. ABHRs contain emollients to reduce skin irritation and are less time-consuming to use than washing with soap and water.
Antibiotic-Resistant Organism (ARO)	A microorganism that has developed resistance to the action of several antimicrobial agents and that is of special clinical or epidemiological significance.
Chain of Transmission	A model used to understand the infection process.
Chickenpox	Chickenpox is an infection that is spread by the airborne route.
Cleaning	The physical removal of foreign material (e.g., dust, soil) and organic material (e.g., blood, secretions, excretions, microorganisms). Cleaning physically removes rather than kills microorganisms. It is accomplished with water, detergents and mechanical action.

Term

Definition

Client/Patient/Resident Any person receiving care within a health care setting.

***Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI)**

CDI is spread by contact transmission.

Contact Precautions

Used in addition to Routine Practices to reduce the risk of spreading infectious agents where contamination of the environment or intact skin is a particular concern.

Croup

Croup is an infection that is spread by droplet and contact transmission.

Direct Care

Providing hands-on care (e.g., bathing, washing, turning client/patient/resident, changing clothes, continence care, dressing changes, care of open wounds/lesions, toileting).

Droplet Precautions

Used in addition to Routine Practices for clients/patients/residents known or suspected of having an infection that can be transmitted by large infectious droplets.

Environment of the Client/Patient/Resident

The immediate space around a client/patient/resident that may be touched by the client/patient/resident and may also be touched by the health care provider when providing care. In a single room, the client/patient/resident environment is the room. In a multi-bed room, the client/patient/resident environment is the area inside the individual's curtain. In an ambulatory setting, the client/patient/resident environment is the area that may come into contact with the client/patient/resident within their cubicle. In a nursery/neonatal setting, the patient environment includes the inside of the bassinette or incubator, as well as the equipment outside the bassinette or incubator used for that infant (e.g., ventilator, monitor). See also, *Health Care Environment*.

Eye Protection

A device that covers the eyes and is used by health care providers to protect the eyes when it is anticipated that a procedure or care activity is likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions, or within two metres of a coughing client/patient/resident. Eye protection includes safety glasses, safety goggles, face shields and visors.

Term

Definition

Facial Protection

Personal protective equipment that protects the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth from splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions. Facial protection may include a mask or respirator in conjunction with eye protection, or a face shield that covers eyes, nose and mouth.

Fit-Test

A qualitative or quantitative method to evaluate the fit of a specific make, model and size of respirator on an individual. Fit-testing must be done periodically, at least every two years and whenever there is a change in respirator face piece or the user's physical condition which could affect the respirator fit.

Hand Hygiene

A general term referring to any action of hand cleaning. Hand hygiene relates to the removal of visible soil and removal or killing of transient microorganisms from the hands. Hand hygiene may be accomplished using soap and running water or an alcohol-based hand rub. Hand hygiene includes surgical hand antisepsis.

Health Care Provider (HCP)

Any person delivering care to a client/patient/resident. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: emergency service workers, physicians, dentists, nurses, respiratory therapists and other health professionals, personal support workers, clinical instructors, students and home health care workers. In some non-acute settings, volunteers might provide care and would be included as health care providers. See also, *Staff*.

Health Care Setting

Any location where health care is provided, including settings where emergency care is provided, hospitals, complex continuing care, rehabilitation hospitals, long-term care homes, mental health facilities, outpatient clinics, community health centres and clinics, physician offices, dental offices, offices of other health professionals and home health care.

Health Care-Associated Infection (HAI)

A term relating to an infection that is acquired during the delivery of health care (also known as *nosocomial infection*).

Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)

Evidence-based practices and procedures that help prevent or reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms to staff, clients/patients/residents or visitors.

Infection Prevention and Control Professional(s) (ICPs)

Trained individual(s) responsible for a health care setting's IPAC activities. In Ontario an ICP must receive a minimum of 80 hours of instruction in an IPAC-Canada endorsed infection control program within six months of entering the role and must acquire and maintain Certification in Infection Control (CIC®), when eligible.

Term	Definition
Infectious Agent	A microorganism, i.e., a bacterium, fungus, parasite, virus or prion, which is capable of invading body tissues and multiplying.
Mask	A device that covers the nose and mouth, is secured in the back and is used by health care providers to protect the mucous membranes of the nose and mouth. It may also be placed on coughing C/P/R when outside his/her room.
Measles	Measles is an infection that is spread by airborne transmission.
Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA)	MRSA is an antibiotic resistant organism that can cause infections. It is spread by direct and indirect contact transmission.
Mode of Transmission	The method by which infectious agents spread from one person to another (e.g., contact, droplet or airborne routes).
N95 Respirator	A respirator is a personal protective device that is worn on the face and covers the nose and mouth to reduce the wearer's risk of inhaling airborne particles.
Norovirus	Noroviruses are infections that are spread through direct and indirect contact.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Clothing or equipment worn for protection against hazards.
Pertussis	Pertussis is an infection that is spread by droplet transmission.
Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC)	A multidisciplinary, scientific advisory body that provides evidence-based advice regarding multiple aspects of infectious disease identification, prevention and control.
Risk Assessment	An evaluation of the interaction of the health care provider, the client/patient/resident and the client /patient/resident environment to assess and analyze the potential for exposure to infectious disease.

Term

Definition

Routine Practices

The infection prevention and control practices that must be used routinely during all activities to reduce the infection risks to you and to clients/patients/residents and to control the transmission of microorganisms in all health care settings.

Seal-Check

A procedure that the health care provider must perform each time an N95 respirator is worn to ensure it fits the wearer's face correctly to provide adequate respiratory protection. The health care provider must receive training on how to perform a seal-check correctly.

Staff

Anyone conducting activities in settings where health care is provided, including but not limited to, health care providers. See also, Health Care Providers.

Tuberculosis (TB)

TB is an infection that is spread through the airborne route.

Vancomycin-Resistant *Enterococci* (VRE)

VRE is an antibiotic resistant organism that can cause infection. It is spread by direct and indirect contact transmission.