Sample Screening Algorithm for Acute Respiratory Infection

This tool is an excerpt from the *Best Practices for Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice* (page 14) and was reformatted for ease of use.

### PERFORM A RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Risk Assessment at Time of Booking:**
  - Does this patient have symptoms of acute infection, e.g., diarrhea, vomiting, new cough or fever?

- **Office Reception Risk Assessment:**
  - Do I need to move this patient out of the waiting room because of symptoms of acute infection?

- **Risk Assessment Based on Task:**
  - Do I need protection for what I am about to do because there is a risk of exposure to blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions?

- **Risk Assessment Based on Patient:**
  - Do I need protection for what I am about to do because of the patient’s symptoms (e.g., diarrhea, vomiting, cough, fever) or known infection?

### ACTION BASED ON RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Intervention / Interaction #1:**
  - Schedule the patient to minimize exposure of others, e.g., at the end of the day. Re-schedule the visit if it is an elective visit.

- **Intervention / Interaction #2:**
  - Minimize exposure of other patients. Move the patient out of the waiting room, if possible. Provide alcohol-based hand rub. Provide a mask or tissues, if coughing, or provide a basin, if vomiting.

- **Intervention / Interaction #3:**
  - Use PPE according to Routine Practices.

- **Intervention / Interaction #4:**
  - Use PPE as prescribed for this known infection or syndrome.

For more information please contact Public Health Ontario’s Infection Prevention and Control Department at jpac@oahpp.ca or visit www.publichealthontario.ca