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	ACTION BASED ON RISK ASSESSMENT
Risk Assessment at Time of Booking: **Does this patient have symptoms of acute infection, e.g., diarrhea, vomiting, new cough or fever?**	**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.**
Office Reception Risk Assessment: **Do I need to move this patient out of the waiting room because of symptoms of acute infection?**	**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.**
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?**	**Intervention / Interaction #3:** **Use PPE according to Routine Practices.**
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?**	**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 ipac@oahpp.ca or visit www.publichealthontario.ca