# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Screening
Screen individuals with influenza-like illness with one or more of the following exposure criteria (note this may expand as situation evolves)
- OR close contact (individuals who provided care for, is a family member of, or who had similar physical contact) with a confirmed or probable case of 2019-nCoV
- OR close contact with a person who has acute respiratory illness who has been to an affected area within 14 days before their onset of illness
- Refer to [www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus) for the most up to date criteria

## Signs & Symptoms
Cough, fever, shortness of breath or other respiratory symptoms

## Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations (interim)

### Individuals with signs & symptoms (Source Control)
- Post signs in public areas reminding symptomatic patients to alert staff
- Identify separate waiting areas for a person with a potential infection, if unable to isolate immediately
- Apply procedure or surgical masks on individuals and accompanying caregiver(s) immediately
- Encourage patients and caregivers to perform hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

### Patient Placement
- Patients who are not considered critically ill: single room (private toilet preferred)
  - If an aerosol generating medical procedure (AGMP) is required, move to an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR) if possible or follow facility AIIR protocol
- Critically ill patients with suspected or confirmed 2019-nCoV: an AIIR is recommended due to the high likelihood of requiring AGMPs on a regular basis
*Consider maintaining a record of all persons entering patient’s room, including all staff and visitors

### Hand Hygiene
- Perform hand hygiene using alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and water, as described in your Routine Practices and when removing soiled PPE
- Educate patients and visitors about how and when to use hand hygiene products

### Additional Precautions & Personal Protective Equipment
- Ensure appropriate signage is visible on entry to room
- **Droplet & Contact Precautions** require gloves, gown, procedure or surgical mask, and facial/eye protection before entry into patient room
  - Prescription glasses do not meet OH&S regulations for eye protection
  - Proper wearing of masks requires a snug fit over the nose and under the chin. Change mask when it becomes moist.
### NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): Interim IPAC Measures

**Updated February 26, 2020**

For more information contact Infection Prevention and Control infectioncontrol@saskhealthauthority.ca

| See additional PPE resources on back | • **Airborne & Contact Precautions** (during AGMP in a non-critical patient OR for the critically ill patient requiring ongoing AGMPs). All staff require gloves, gowns, facial/eye protection and a fit-tested N95 respirator  
  o Ensure an airtight seal on the face over the top of the nose and under the chin |
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| **Patient Transport** | • Avoid moving or transporting patient out of isolation room unless medically necessary  
  • Notify EMS or receiving department about additional precautions prior to transport |
| **Patient Care Items and Equipment** | • Use disposable equipment when possible or dedicate reusable equipment for patient use until discharge  
  • If reusable equipment cannot be dedicated for single patient use, clean and disinfect between patients  
  • Used meal trays and dishes do not require special handling  
  • Special handling of linen and waste is not required  
  • Environmental cleaning as per existing protocols |
| **Visitor management** | • Minimize visitors to those who are essential (e.g., immediate family member or parent, guardian, or primary caregiver)  
  • Limit visitor movement within site to visiting patient and then exiting facility directly after visit  
  • Instruct visitors to speak with staff before entering patient’s room to assess risk to visitor’s health and ability to adhere to **Droplet & Contact Precautions**  
  • Provide visitors with instruction on and supervision with appropriate use of required PPE |
| **Discontinuation of Precautions** | • Determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with IPAC and most responsible physician |

**Additional Resources:**

Alberta Health Services: [PPE Donning poster] [PPE Doffing poster] Guide to PPE (narrated slide show)

**References**


Winnipeg Regional Health Authority: 2019 nCoV (novel Coronavirus 2019) (personal communication)

Alberta Health Services: Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Interim IPC Recommendations. [https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/ipc-emerging-issues-nCoV.pdf](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/ipc-emerging-issues-nCoV.pdf)