

Glossary

Continuing Care IPC Resource Manual

Acute respiratory tract infection – sudden onset of illness with fever and new or change in existing cough, AND with one or more of the following: sore throat, joint pain, muscle aches, severe exhaustion.

Aerosols – is a suspension of tiny particles in the air, such as dusts, mists, or fumes, whose motion is governed principally by particle size. These particles may be inhaled or absorbed by the skin, and can sometimes cause adverse health effects for workers.

Aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP) – Any procedure carried out on a patient that can induce the production of aerosols as a result of manipulation of a person's airway. Examples of AGMPs include: procedures that stimulate coughing and promote the generation of aerosols include intubation, CPR, bronchoscopy, sputum induction, BiPAP, open tracheal suctioning, high frequency oscillatory ventilation, tracheostomy care, aerosolized medical administration, high-flow oxygen systems (e.g. opti-flow, AIRVO, Flo2 Max).

Airborne Precautions – are required for persons with known or suspected to be infected with microorganisms that travel in tiny particles or in small respiratory droplets that contain the infectious agent. These agents can suspend in the air and travel and you breathe them in.

Antibiotic Resistant Organisms (ARO) – A microorganism that has developed resistance to the action of one or more antimicrobial agents of special clinical or epidemiologic significance. As such, microorganisms that are considered antimicrobial-resistant can vary over time and place. Examples of microorganisms included in this group are (MRSA², VRE³, VRSA⁴, ESBL⁵, CRE⁶, MDRA⁷) Other microorganisms may be added to this list if antibiotic resistance is judged to be significant in a specific healthcare facility or patient population, at the discretion of the IPC program or local, regional or national authorities. ²MRSA = Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* ³VRE = Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci ⁴VRSA = Vancomycin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* ⁵ESBL = Extended Spectrum Beta-lactamase ⁶CRE = Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae ⁷MDRA = Multi Drug resistant *Acinetobacter*

Colonization – The presence of germs (bacteria) that may be in or on the body, but no signs of illness or infection. Residents who are colonized will have no signs or symptoms. The resident feels fine. Example MRSA can cause colonization.

Contact Transmission: can be direct or indirect.

Direct Contact – means that you can transfer the organism as a result of direct physical contact between an infected or colonized source. This is body to body surface.

Indirect Contact – means that you transfer the organism to another by contaminated hands or by contaminated objects in the environment.

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Common vehicle transmission – refers to a single contaminated source such as food, medication, equipment etc. which serves to transmit infection to multiple hosts.

Vector borne transmission – refers to transmission by insect vectors. Such transmission has not been reported in Canadian hospitals (Health Canada 1999)

Contained – a dressing or device capable of holding all drainage, secretions and discharge.

Continuing Care – includes settings in which medical, physical and social services are provided to support the needs of people living with chronic illness. The goal of the continuing care setting is to prevent deterioration of function and, when possible, improve the function of the resident or client. May also be referred to as Long Term Care, Facility Living or Supportive Living.

Droplet – Solid or liquid particles suspended in the air, whose motion is governed principally by gravity. Droplets are generated primarily as the result of an infected source coughing, sneezing or talking.

Droplet Precautions – are used for persons with known or suspected to be infected with microorganisms that are spread by large particle droplets. When the infected person propels droplets through the air (about 2 meters) by coughing, sneezing, or talking or during procedures like suctioning, the pathogens can land on a surface or in the eyes, nose or mouth.

Infection – The presence of germs (microorganisms) that may be in or on the body that cause signs of illness or infection. (e.g. localized pain/tenderness, redness, warmth, swelling, pus, fever, pneumonia). Example, MRSA can cause an infection

IPC Designate – Individual(s) dedicated to the site for the purpose of, but limited to, outbreak reporting/management, receiving notifications or questions regarding infectious diseases including additional precaution implementation or discontinuation. This can include; Site Dedicated Infection Control Professional, On-call Infection Control Professional, Infectious Disease Physician, Medical Officer of Health.

Poor hygiene – inability to perform or cooperate with performing all forms of personal cleanliness including bathing, oral care, and hand hygiene.

Resident – are persons who receive or have requested health care in the Continuing Care System. These terms may be used interchangeably, depending on the health care setting. Term Client may be used interchangeably, depending on the health care setting.

Resolved – when the symptoms defining the illness are no longer present. For example acute respiratory illness is resolved when cough is not longer present or back to baseline for resident

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Routine Practices – a four-step process including

1. hand hygiene
2. assessing the risk of transmission
3. reducing the risk of transmission (includes appropriate use of PPE, cleaning and/or disinfecting the environment and equipment, proper handling of linen & waste, sharps injury prevention, and appropriate resident placement or accommodation.)
4. education

sp. & spp. – **sp.** is an abbreviation of species. Used to refer an organism where the specific species which is unknown or unnamed. In reference to a larger group of species, **spp.** is used. An example would be Salmonella sp. or Aspergillus spp.

Transfer – When a resident leaves the continuing care facility.

Transmission – The process whereby an infectious agent passes from a source to cause infection in a susceptible host.

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