

Section 4: **Additional Precaution**

Policy number: **4.4**

Subject: **Droplet and Contact
Precautions**

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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Droplet and contact precautions are used in addition to Routine Practices for clients known or suspected of having an infection that can be transmitted or spread in more than one way or if the cause of illness is unknown. These precautions are the most common combination.

2 POLICY

- 2.1 Staff must use Droplet and Contact Precautions in addition to Routine Practices for clients known or suspected of having an infection that can be spread in more than one way. These pathogens can be transmitted by droplet directly toward the HCP and/or by direct patient contact, or by contact with items in the client's environment, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required to enter a room includes a mask with visor, or mask and goggles, and wearing gown and gloves. The ill client will be encouraged to wear a half face mask to contain respiratory droplets, and then be asked to perform hand hygiene.

3 PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Droplet and Contact Precautions:
- 3.1.1 Refer to Appendix 33 for procedures to be followed while donning and doffing of PPE which include hand hygiene, applying gown, mask, eye protection, and gloves
 - 3.1.2 Change gloves when changing tasks while working with the same client
 - 3.1.3 Any items being removed from the area need to be cleaned and disinfected.
- 3.2 Droplet and Contact Transmission:
- 3.2.1 Microorganisms contained in the droplets are deposited on surfaces in the client's immediate environment
 - 3.2.2 Some of the deposited microorganisms may remain viable for extended periods of time
 - 3.2.3 Contact transmission can occur by touching surfaces and objects contaminated with respiratory droplets. (Refer to Policy 4.2: Contact Precautions; and Policy 4.3: Droplet Precautions)

3.2.4 Microorganisms requiring Droplet and Contact Precautions include but are not limited to ARIs including pneumonia, common cold, influenza, RSV, and all viral respiratory illnesses (Refer to Appendices 32 and 33: Fact Sheets: Influenza, Common Cold)

3.2.5 Refer to Appendix 34: Sample Signage for Droplet and Contact Precautions

4 APPENDICES

Appendix 21: Public Health Ontario. (2012). PIDAC's Recommended Steps for Putting On and Taking Off Personal Protective Equipment.

Appendix 32: Public Health Ontario. (2011). Influenza Fact Sheet.

Appendix 33: Public Health Ontario. (2011). Common Cold Fact Sheet.

Appendix 34: Public Health Ontario. (2012). PIDAC's Sample Signage for Entrance to a Room of a Patient Requiring Droplet and Contact Precautions in all Health Care Settings.

5 REFERENCES

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