



## First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Directive

**Guidance for Environmental Public Health Officers assessing facilities to serve as: triage; screening and/or assessment; or patient management within the community, either re-tooled existing structures or new units**

**Effective:** 15/04/2020

**Revision :** 2

**Sheet :** 1 of 7

**Approval Date:**

**Applies To:**

- Governing Body Leadership & Operations
- Programs & Services
- Client, Family & Community

**Approval Authority:** Dr. Tom Wong, Chief Medical Officer, Public Health

### **Purpose:**

The following guidance supports the public health evaluation of facilities to serve as triage, screening and assessment, and/or patient management within the community. It may also be used to support evaluation of facilities intended for community individuals but located outside the community. Potential facilities may include hotels, gyms, schools, or other available community spaces, or additional structures transferred into the community to expand space (e.g. domes, mobile units).

### **Audience:**

Guidance is intended for use by Environmental Public Health Officers (EPHOs) during the set-up of isolation facilities, and, if a critical need arises, during operations.

Community: \_\_\_\_\_ Facility: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ EPHO: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Triage-general screening – if not using existing health facility</b>	Yes	No	Ref:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drive-up or structure outside nursing station</li> <li>• Activities: initial screening</li> </ul>			
Washroom access for screening workers. Hot and cold running water, liquid hand soap in dispenser, paper towels.			
PPE station and supplies – trolley or cabinet, lockable			
Garbage receptacle (touch-free), liners			
Hand hygiene station for screening workers, alcohol-based hand rubs			
Signage: symptomatic patients to alert healthcare workers			
Signage: symptomatic patients hand hygiene and/or respiratory hygiene			
Disinfection procedures: for washrooms, hand hygiene station and any touch surfaces			
Other:			

<b>Assessment and Re-assessment</b>	Yes	No	Ref:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary building</li> <li>• Activities: history, physical exam, testing</li> </ul>			
Adequate ventilation <sup>1</sup> ; location of air intakes minimize entry of outdoor contaminants			
Accessible washroom, hot and cold running water, liquid hand soap in dispenser, paper towels			
Processes enable physical separation (at least 2 m) between patients waiting to be seen. Physical separation from health care professional.			
Dedicated waiting area for symptomatic patients that have been in contact with a confirmed or suspect case and/or close contact			
Patient supplies: masks, tissues, and alcohol-based hand rubs available at entrances and patient rooms			
Hand hygiene station – 1) for patient and 2) for health care worker			
PPE station and supplies – trolley or cabinet, lockable			
Garbage receptacle(s) (touch-free), liners			

<sup>1</sup> The National Building Code of Canada (Fourteenth Edition 2015) references the Standard CAN/CSA-Z317.2-01 entitled “Special requirements for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in health care facilities” which recommends 6 ACH for standard patient rooms.

Cleaning equipment and supply storage (ability for mop bucket filling)			
Signage: symptomatic patients hand hygiene and/or respiratory hygiene			
Disinfection procedures: for washrooms, hand hygiene station and any touch surfaces			

<b>Management – Mild /Active</b>	Yes	No	Ref:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursing station + patient care room in nursing station + overflow building</li> <li>Activities: management of respiratory symptoms/distress/sepsis</li> </ul>			
<b>Infrastructure:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Existing and serviced permanent structure OR <input type="checkbox"/> New Temporary structure			
<b>Intended Purpose:</b> (ill/asymptomatic)			
Potable water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>System Name: _____</li> <li>Is there adequate quantity?</li> <li>Adequate monitoring?</li> <li>Existing BWA, DNC, or DNU?</li> </ul>			
Sewage Disposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community system, Name: _____</li> <li>On-site sewage system               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designed operating capacity (# people/day): _____</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
Operable electricity: Main Supply			
Back-up electrical supply			
Operable heat source			
<b>Adequate Environmental Ventilation</b>			
Air intake and exhaust situated to minimize entry of contaminants.			
Patient Rooms: with natural ventilation, 60 L/s per patient OR 6 ACH for standard patient rooms.			5 12
Corridors and other transient spaces: rate of 2.5 L/s/m <sup>3</sup> in corridors and other transient spaces (Note: When patient care is regularly undertaken in corridors during emergency or other situations, 60 L/s/patient)			2
Airborne infection isolation rooms (AIIR): 12 ACH for new construction and 6 ACH for existing facilities.			11
Special medical procedures (aerosol-generating): natural ventilation with air flow of at least 160 L/s per patient or in negative- pressure rooms with at least 12 air changes per hour and controlled direction of air flow when using mechanical ventilation			1
Rooms and spaces with residential occupancy: natural ventilation for every room, otherwise mechanical ventilation of 0.5 ACH if it is mechanically cooled in the summer and 1 ACH if not mechanically cooled. Ontario Building Code (OBC)			13
Upon discharge or transfer: refrain from entering the vacated room until sufficient time has elapsed for enough air changes to remove potentially infectious particles ( <a href="#">clearance rates under differing ventilation conditions</a> ). After time elapsed, room should undergo appropriate cleaning and surface disinfection before returned to use.			5
Other:			

<b>Sanitation Facilities</b>			
Washroom facilities: Accessible, hot and cold running water, liquid hand soap, paper towels.			
Washroom facilities: ability to cohort ill from asymptomatic			
Handwashing: Located at critical areas (transition between rooms/areas), entrances			
Handwashing: Hot and cold running water, Hand soap and paper towel supply			
Alcohol-based hand rub, near the point of care and the room door and any locations where hand sinks are not feasible			
Shower stations: accessible, well lit and safe, easy to clean			
Other:			
<b>Patient and Worker Flow</b>			
Process of entering and exiting the facility, isolation area, units, and in-between areas minimizes opportunity for interacting with others, flows clean to dirty			
Signage: at entrance to isolation area – authorized accesses, special precautions			
Visitor management: screening and essential persons			
Elevator: if building is more than 1 story Signage: occupancy restriction to ensure 2 meter distancing			7
Transfer of patients to/from facility: designated area to allow safe transfer and minimize flow through non-isolation areas			
Other:			
<b>PPE Management</b>			
Location: supplies and linens outside the isolation room or area (e.g. in the change room), trolley at key areas.			
Lockable			
<b>Accommodation</b>			
Single rooms preferred, for patients suspected of having COVID-19.			
Non-single rooms: cohort patients suspected of COVID-19 together			1, 6
Non-single rooms: beds placed at least 2 metre apart regardless of whether they are suspected to have COVID-19, privacy curtains			1, 6
Avoid transferring patients within and between facilities unless medically indicated.			6
Shared /communal spaces: maintain precautions			
Shared /communal spaces: signage at all entrance points reiterating precautions (distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, limit spread)			10
Shared /communal spaces: no communal products			
Bathroom: preferably ensuite (hand washing and toilet facilities within room)			
Shared bathroom: Increased cleaning frequency			
Keep water pitchers and cups, tissue wipes, and all items necessary for attending to personal hygiene, within the patient's reach.			4
Personal belongings: keep to a minimum.			4

<b>Food services also refer to COVID-19 Guidance Ensuring Food Safety</b>			
Access to food and food preparation <input type="checkbox"/> Within individual unit OR <input type="checkbox"/> Delivery system			
Within unit: Delivery system for replenishing food supplies or meals provided by family Home support (if required) Discharge cleaning of all food preparation items within unit			
Delivery system: Approved Food Facility: Name: Inspection of Food Facility conducted? If food delivery, will food consumption occur immediately? If no, adequate refrigeration equipment required Delivery process: access to facility, hygiene and delivery processes minimize contamination Collection and handling processes of reusable dishware/equipment: minimize handling and avoid contamination other surfaces between patient units and dishwashing areas.			
Other:			
<b>Communication:</b>			
Patient communication, including telephone (for monitoring by health staff, reporting of symptoms, gaining access to support services, and communicating with family), access to WIFI / TV			
No shared magazines and newspapers			
<b>Waste Management</b>			
Waste receptacles with lids conveniently located in individual isolation units, preferably no-touch lids, liners. Ensure that used (i.e. dirty) bins remain inside the isolation rooms.			
Waste bags are securely fastened prior to transporting			
Approved sharps containers, and TDG collection/disposal: inside isolation room or area.			
Waste handling and collection process minimizes contamination outside isolation area			
Waste storage: onsite in secure, monitored area until pickup			
Final disposal: sanitary landfill, not in an unmonitored open area For regular waste: not-infectious waste, regular house-hold disposal For all other medical waste: dispose as per health care facility requirements			9
Other:			
<b>Laundry / Linen Management</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Within individual unit OR <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry service			
Laundry collection bins disinfected between use or restricted as clean/dirty			
Clean linens stored outside isolation room, access by staff only, transported in a manner that prevents its contamination and ensures its cleanliness.			
Minimize handling and agitation to avoid contamination of air, surfaces and persons. Special handling of linen from patients on additional precautions is not required.			

Personal clothing laundered separately from other linens.			
Laundry chutes: properly designed, maintained and used in a manner to minimize dispersion of aerosols from contaminated laundry.			
Washing procedures: regular laundry soap and water or machine wash at 60-90 °C (140–194°F) . Do not overload. Dry thoroughly with hottest temperature.			9
Hand hygiene: before and after, minimizing touching other surfaces, disinfect machine controls and handles			9
Other:			
<b>Environmental Cleaning</b>			
Remove all non-essential furniture and ensure that the remaining furniture is easy to clean, and does not conceal or retain dirt or moisture within or around it. Minimize shared items.			
Dedicate non-critical medical equipment to a single patient			6
Assign responsibility and accountability for routine cleaning and disinfection of patient care equipment			6
Disinfection procedures: Disinfectant(s) used are appropriate Drug Identification Number (DIN) listed on Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)			15
Set procedure and frequency, documented and supervised by adequately trained personnel and by dedicated personnel			6
Surfaces are constructed of materials that can be easily cleaned at the point-of-use			6
Increased frequency for frequently touched surfaces ; shared items (phones, TV remote)			6
To reduce the risk of aerosolizing the virus, cleaners should avoid dusting or sweeping, instead using damp cloths or paper towels and wet mopping.			9
Soft surfaces, such as upholstered furniture and curtains, can be steam cleaned or isolated for 72 hours and then cleaned normally.			9
Monitor adherence to cleaning practices			6
Terminal cleaning: following patient discharge and after discontinuing precautions			6
Appropriate products for routine cleaning and sanitation			6
Storage and preparation of cleaning supplies: adequate equipment stationed inside the isolation room or area			3
Other:			
<b>Sterilization of patient-care equipment</b>			
Adequate space for handling and processes			
<b>Laboratory Specimen</b>			
Safe holding, storage, and transport; minimizes contamination of clean areas			
<b>Staff Area (breaks, eating, changing)</b>			
Separate from patient areas			
Sanitation facilities			

## References:

1. *WHO Infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected – Interim guidance*  
[https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected-20200125](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected-20200125)
2. *Infection prevention and control of epidemic and pandemic prone acute respiratory infections in health care WHO Guidelines*  
[https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/112656/9789241507134\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/112656/9789241507134_eng.pdf?sequence=1)
3. *Considerations for quarantine of individuals in the context of containment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19)*  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/infection-prevention-and-control>
4. *The National Center for Biotechnology Information - Infection Prevention and Control of Epidemic- and Pandemic-Prone Acute Respiratory Infections in Health Care*  
[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK214341/?fbclid=IwAR37bnsreDpCIDiBM6gt\\_jMf3PwvKsKTVoRNEU4MW5plhVsRec4lyPJmpm8](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK214341/?fbclid=IwAR37bnsreDpCIDiBM6gt_jMf3PwvKsKTVoRNEU4MW5plhVsRec4lyPJmpm8)
5. *Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Healthcare Settings* [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control.html)
6. *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Healthcare Settings* <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/routine-practices-precautions-healthcare-associated-infections/part-b.html#B>
7. Manitoba draft guidelines
8. *Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): For health professionals* <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals.html>
9. *COVID-19 Precautions for Multi-unit Residential Buildings.*  
<http://www.nccch.ca/sites/default/files/COVID-19%20Precautions%20for%20Multiunit%20Residential%20Buildings%20-%20March%2031%202020.pdf>
10. *Alberta Health Services: Updated Operational Standards for Licensed Supportive Living and Long-Term Care and residential addiction treatment service providers licensed under the Mental Health Services Protection Act (MHSPA) under Record of Decision – CMOH Order 06-2020*  
<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-updated-operational-standards.pdf>
11. *Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings (2007).*
12. *CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z317.2-01 “Special requirements for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in health care facilities”.*
13. *Ontario Building Code (OBC).*
14. *Background G. Laundry and Bedding, Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities (2003)*  
<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/background/laundry.html>
15. *Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)* <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html#tbl1>