

# Point-of-Care-Risk Assessment (PCRA)

The PCRA is a routine practice which should be conducted before every patient/client/resident (hereafter 'patient') interaction by a trained health-care worker (HCW) to assess the likelihood of exposing themselves and/or others to infectious agents. This assessment informs the selection of appropriate actions and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to minimize the risk of exposure. This is a general tool. The questions and actions may need to be adapted for specific health care settings and roles.

## 1 Before each patient interaction, a health-care worker must assess the following:



### The patient

- What are the patient's symptoms (e.g., frequent coughing or sneezing)?
- Does the patient require additional precautions (droplet, contact, airborne) for infectious agents?
- What is the patient's health status (e.g., immunocompromised)?
- Is the patient able to practice respiratory etiquette and perform hand hygiene?



### The task

- What type of task am I carrying out (e.g., providing direct face-to-face care, performing an aerosol generating medical procedure (AGMP), coming into contact with body fluids, personal care, non-clinical interaction)?
- Am I trained, equipped and ready for the task?



### The environment

- Where am I doing my task?
- Is there triage or screening?
- Is the patient in a separate room? Is the bathroom shared?
- Can physical distancing be maintained?
- Is there cleaning and disinfection?

## 2 Choose appropriate actions and PPE including the following:

- Hand hygiene** (e.g., before and after a task, before and after PPE use, before and after contact with patient).
- Respiratory etiquette** (e.g., support patient to cover their coughs with a tissue or their elbow).
- Patient placement** (e.g., prioritize the patient for a single room where possible).
- Physical distancing** (e.g., encourage patient to maintain a two metre physical distance if direct care is not involved).
- Environmental and equipment cleaning and disinfection** (e.g., clean re-usable equipment between each use).
- Implement additional precautions if required** (e.g., droplet and contact precautions for COVID-19).
- Select appropriate pieces of PPE**, as below and per the provincial mask use in health-care settings policy.

### Selecting PPE



\*HCW must be fit-tested and trained in performing the AGMP.

