

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

Bulletin #204 - COVID-19 - ID-IPC

Managing COVID-19 Patients Outside of COVID-19 Designated Units

Infection Prevention and Control guidelines

New: [Managing COVID-19 Positive Patients Outside of COVID-19 Designated Units](#)

IPC guidance for the management of COVID-19 patients, in alignment with recommendations issued by the CDC and the WHO, state that providing care in a COVID-19 designated unit remains the best practice.

Although it has been acknowledged that a disease-focused unit will always provide a higher level of safe quality care, other constraints such as limited human resources and critical bed capacity have been identified as two of the pressing issues which affect the level of patient care being delivered on other patient care units. In response to ongoing concerns raised regarding these issues an IPC document was developed to guide the management of COVID-19 positive patients outside of a dedicated COVID-19 unit.

The ID/IPC COVID-19 Committee recommends that this guideline be only implemented as part of a crisis response when the level of care being delivered on patient care units is at risk and the facility can no longer safely support a designated COVID-19 unit. A method for monitoring the impact of dismantling COVID-19 units will be required, and that implementation of sentinel testing on these units will be an important risk mitigation strategy.

Please visit the [IPC Resources COVID-19 Skyline page](#) for COVID-19 information.

