

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19  
COMMITTEE**

**Bulletin #189b - COVID-19 - Reminder of the Importance of IPC Precautions - Jan 6  
2022**

Dear colleagues,

As you are aware, multiple Horizon facilities are currently contending with an unprecedented number of COVID-19 exposures and nosocomial outbreaks on patient care units.

These outbreaks are associated with increased patient morbidity and mortality, prolonged length of stay, increased caregiver burden and reduction in our ability to deliver core services.

As per all health care associated infections, many of these are preventable. We are currently 20 months into this pandemic and are now challenged as a province with the second highest incidence of COVID-19 in Canada.

COVID-19 transmission to health care workers is therefore increased both in the community and the hospital setting. Caregiver fatigue and complacency are predictable outcomes under these challenging conditions, leading to an erosion of best infection prevention and control (IPC) practices.

Given this reality, I would like to encourage all of you to follow public health guidance in the community while maintaining a high level of diligence in practicing infection control precautions at work. These practices while at work include:

1. Performing hand hygiene before and after all patient interactions.
2. Wearing a mask appropriately at all times within our facilities unless eating or drinking.
3. Eating and drinking should be performed only in designated areas, with appropriate physical distancing and attention to room capacity limits. Please don your mask immediately after consuming food and drink.

4. Eye protection must be used during all patient care activities and is required continuously while working on outbreak units.
5. Perform a point of care risk assessment to determine optimal personal protective equipment before every patient interaction.
6. Please feel free to book a PPE refresher as needed through IPC.

Practicing excellent infection control procedures is a form of self-care, which protects you, your family, your patients and your colleagues. Please also remember to similarly practice good self-care during your non-work hours, so that you can enjoy life at your full potential even during a pandemic.

Thank you again for the daily work you perform to maintain a culture of excellence at Horizon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gordon Dow  
Regional Infectious Diseases Medical Director