

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

Bulletin #211b – COVID-19 – ID-IPC Guidance Update
September 1, 2022

IPC Outbreak Management Protocol and Isolation Precautions

The Infection Prevention and Control COVID-19 Guidance documents regarding Exposure and Outbreak Management are currently under review for the potential to improve efficiencies while maintaining patient safety.

In the interim, the ID/IPC COVID-19 Committee recommends the following practices be followed:

- Discontinue isolation precautions for recovered patients on outbreak units.
- Transfer recovered patients out of ward/semi-private rooms and cohort them with other recovered patients to provide a buffer area between newly admitted and exposed patients.
- Newly admitted patients to an outbreak unit will not require isolation precautions unless a new COVID-19 patient is identified on the unit.

Physical Distancing Requirements

The ID/IPC COVID-19 Committee recommends the following:

- The physical distancing requirement in meeting rooms and amphitheaters be reduced from two metres to one metre to increase seating capacity.
 - Continuous masking will be maintained.
 - Food and drinks are not permitted.
 - Virtual meetings are recommended when possible.
- The physical distancing requirement in Emergency Departments and Ambulatory Care Services general waiting rooms be reduced from two metres to one metre.
- In Emergency Departments waiting room chairs in the Hot/Red Zones will be spaced to comply with the two-metre distance requirement.
- The Ambulatory Care/Outpatient Services pre-procedure/recovery area will maximize the distance between each bed space (to comply with two-metre distance requirement); occupied bed spaces are separated by a closed privacy curtain and have an accessible alcohol-based hand rinse (ABHR) dispenser. When two-metre physical distance cannot be maintained between each bed space, ensure privacy curtains are closed.
- The physical distancing in cafeterias and departmental lunchrooms will be maintained at two metres.

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