

Infection Prevention and Control Principles (IPAC)

The overarching goal of IPAC is to protect the health and safety of our patients, staff, physicians and Learners. This checklist provides a summary of IPAC recommendations that help reduce risk in the hospital setting. Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH) are also committed to the prevention of occupational illness and injury and supports an environment free from violence and harassment. HHS will take every precaution reasonable in the circumstance for the protection of our healthcare workers.

Administrative

Policy

All Healthcare and Medical Learners are to:

- Use Staff designated hospital staff entrances
- Perform self-screening daily before coming into work.(download Application to your phone)
- If you screen yellow or red, follow app instructions and notify contact for Academic program. COVID-19 testing will be required if symptomatic, or an exposure has been identified
- Maintain a healthy work environment and uphold physical distancing of greater than 2 meter (6 ft.) in public areas, lunchrooms, and in clinical areas where possible.
- Adhere to universal masking. Surgical masks will be provided at the hospital Staff entrance at start of shift. You are expected to wear a mask at all times except when eating or drinking.
- Face shields are available on all clinical units. Universal eye protection is practiced in All Emergency Departments, dedicated COVID units, assessment centers, Labour & Deliver Triage and when a unit is in a declared COVID outbreak. All other clinical areas wear eye protection when having a patient facing encounter. This is know as "Patient Facing Eye Protection".
- Report immediately to your supervisor/manager any work related hazardous situation, injury, illness. Complete a Healthcare Worker Incident Report (HHS SOR, SJHH HIR) - icon is on every desktop.
- For blood/body fluid exposures- immediately report the incident and obtain medical follow-up (Employee Health office/Occupational Health and Safety Mon-Fri 8-4 or Emergency Department after hours)

Protocols

COVID specific protocols have been developed and are available on the HHS website/MyStJoes Intranet. The following Protocols should be reviewed prior to placement.

- [Hand Hygiene Protocol](#)
- [Cough Etiquette Protocol](#)
- [Additional Precautions Protocol](#)
- [Routine Practice Protocol](#)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE (gloves, gown, mask/respirator, eye protection) refers to physical barriers between the healthcare worker and an infectious agent/infectious disease to minimize exposure and prevent transmission. Healthcare and Medical Learners are to:

- Review PPE expectations and how to practice extended use [PPE Stewardship and Conservation](#)
- [Select appropriate PPE](#) based on [Point of Care risk assessment \(PCRA\)](#)
- Understand where Universal and Patient facing eye protection is practiced [COVID-19 Eye Protection](#)
- Ensure If using personal eye protection it meets the standards [Acceptable Eye Protection \(Options and Ordering\)](#)
- Ensure you are [Putting on](#) and [Removing PPE](#) to reduce risk of self contamination
- Use appropriate PPE including fit-tested N95 respirator for direct care of patients undergoing an Aerosol-Generating Medical Procedure (AGMP).

Surveillance and Infection Control Principles

Active and passive screening for COVID-19, includes surveillance for symptomatic and asymptomatic patients and healthcare workers through signage, virtual and verbal screening at all entry points to our hospitals. IPAC principles are to be applied to all patients, all interactions and at all time to reduce risk of transmission:

- Learners should not care for patient with confirmed COVID-19
- Follow patient screening for COVID-19 and masking requirements
- If caring for a patient that has symptoms of COVID-19-19 notify preceptor or faculty member
- Ensure patients that meet criteria for COVID-19 testing are placed in Enhanced Droplet Contact Precautions
- If required, provide patient factsheet/hand outs for PHO "How to self Isolate" and "Self- Monitor"