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 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

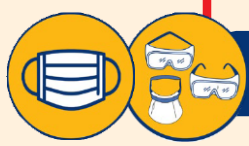
- ☐ Where am I doing my task?
- ☐ Is there triage or screening?
- ☐ Is the patient in a separate room? Is the bathroom shared?
- ☐ Is there adequate environmental cleaning and disinfection in place?

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, wear a mask if tolerated).
- ☐ **Patient placement** (e.g., prioritize a patient with risks for infectious agents for a single occupancy room where possible).
- ☐ **Environmental and equipment cleaning and disinfection** (e.g., clean and disinfect 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 outlined below.

Selecting PPE

If **additional precautions** (e.g., droplet, contact, airborne) are in place, put on all required PPE.

Could my hands be exposed to blood or body fluids?	Could my eyes or face be splashed/sprayed with blood or body fluids?	Could my clothing or skin come into contact with blood or body fluids, including splashes/sprays?	Is there an airborne or increased aerosol transmission risk?
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
 Wear gloves	 Wear medical mask and eye protection	 Wear gown	 Wear N95 respirator or equivalent (see Page2)*

*HCW must be fit-tested for N95 respirator and a seal check must be performed prior to use. Other equivalent respirators, such as elastomeric half-face respirators (EHFRs) and Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs), may also be used if staff have been provided training on its appropriate use and organizational procedures related to their use are followed.

*This PCRA tool is adapted and modified from MoH and BCCDC's COVID-19 PCRA tool for PHSA use only.