Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)

The point of care risk assessment (PCRA) is a routine practice which should be conducted before every patient/client/resident (hereafter 'patient') interaction by a trained 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.

Before each patient interaction, an HCW must assess the following: THE PATIENT What are the patient's symptoms (e.g., frequent coughing or sneezing)? Does the patient require additional precautions (contact/droplet/airborne) for other diseases? 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), 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 client in a separate room? Is the bathroom shared? Can physical distancing be maintained? Is there adequate environmental cleaning and disinfection? 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). ☐ **Patient separation** (e.g., prioritize the patient for a single room). ☐ **Physical distancing** (e.g., encourage patient to maintain a 2 metre physical distance if direct care is not involved). ☐ Environmental and equipment cleaning and disinfection (e.g., clean 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 below and per the Island Health Mask Policy. Wear a mask according to the Island Health Mask Policy **Selecting PPE** Will my eyes or face be Will my Will my clothing or skin Is the patient on airborne splashed/sprayed with hands be be soiled from precautions (e.g., measles, blood or body fluids? splashes/sprays or come exposed to tuberculosis)? Am I within 2 metres of a into contact with blood or Am I performing an AGMP on blood or coughing or vomiting body fluids? a patient with COVID-19 risk? body fluids? patient?

Wear

gown

YES

Wear medical

mask and eve

protection



YES

Wear N95

respirator or

equivalent*

Wear

gloves

^{*}HCW must be fit-tested and trained in performing the aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP).