

# Suspected Viral Respiratory Illness (VRI) all Health Facilities

Patient\* has 2 or more symptoms of a possible VRI

**VRI Definition:**  
**2 or more of the following:**

- New or worsening cough
- Fever or a temperature that is abnormal for that individual
- Shortness of breath
- Congestion
- Sore throat
- Loss of smell or taste
- Headache
- Myalgia (muscle aches)
- Tiredness/malaise

**If the patient does not meet the definition for VRI, additional precautions may still be required.**  
**Lab Confirmed VRI should be started on treatment as soon as possible**

**Droplet & Contact Precautions**

- Place symptomatic patient on droplet & contact precautions and post precaution sign/s
- Advise your Charge Nurse and ICP or CD Nurse
- Collect a nasopharyngeal swab from symptomatic patient
- Continue swabbing symptomatic patients.
- Conduct a risk assessment for exposed\* patients in consultation with IPAC or MHO

**Bed Placement**  
 For symptomatic and exposed patients:

- Encourage to remain in their room
- Patient may go to diagnostic tests wearing a medical-grade mask
- Complete a risk assessment for [patient placement](#)
- Can be transferred to another unit on droplet and contact precautions – the receiving unit must be aware of the need for additional precautions
- There are no restrictions to admitting to the same multi-bed room.

**Housekeeping**

- Ensure additional precautions signage is posted so that housekeeping are aware of the need for precaution cleaning for affected rooms

**[Aerosol Generation Medical Procedure \(AGMP\)](#)**

- Airborne, droplet, & contact precautions are indicated for patients who are positive or PUI for COVID-19 until diagnosed otherwise
- Consult with Most Responsible Provider (MRP) the need to modify or stop AGMP if appropriate
- Consider alternative treatment where possible

\*Exposed: Patients, visitors and health care workers who have been within 2 metres of a case for more than 15 minutes cumulatively in a day, or in direct physical contact without using appropriate additional precautions and PPE  
 \*Patient: the term “patient” in this document refers to patients, residents and clients in an inpatient acute or long-term care setting.