

# COVID-19 Outbreak

## Control Measures – Hospital 6 East

**Case Definition:** clients or staff with a lab-confirmed COVID-19.

### SURVEILLANCE

1. New clients presenting with any one symptom compatible with COVID-19 will be tested;
2. Active surveillance of clients, including temperature checks, will be conducted twice daily;
3. IPAC and OHS will conduct contact tracing among clients and staff, respectively;

### SIGNAGE

1. Special Droplet/Contact Precautions signs will be posted on the doors of all cases presenting with any one symptom compatible with COVID-19 until it is ruled out;
2. Respiratory Outbreak signs shall be posted on all entrances of the affected unit. Doors to the unit must stay shut for the duration of outbreak;

### ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS & PPE

1. Clients presenting with any one symptom compatible with COVID-19 will be placed on Special Droplet & Contact Precautions;
2. Number of entries into the rooms of clients on Special Droplet/Contact Precautions must be kept to a minimum;
3. Nursing and medical staff will use '*clustered care*' format for clients on Special Droplet/Contact Precautions;
4. A limited number of nursing staff will be *designated* to provide care to the line-listed cases per shift;
5. Isolation cart will be stocked with face shields, gloves, gowns and disinfectant wipes;
6. Trained staff will use 'buddy system' for donning and doffing of PPE;
7. Continuous masking policy is in effect for all staff and contractors in client care and common areas;
8. Masks should only be removed for eating/drinking, and during this time, staff must maintain a physical distance (min. 2m) and use hand hygiene after touching their mask;
9. Universal use of eye protection policy is in effect on the affected unit. Staff and essential visitors must wear eye protection when within less than 2m of any client, symptomatic or not;

### ACCOMMODATION, COHORTING & ROOM RESTRICTIONS

1. Line-listed cases with tracheostomies that require open suctioning shall be placed in private rooms;
2. Whenever possible, COVID positive clients will be segregated into a private room or cohorted as per IPAC;
3. Where private rooms are unavailable, line-listed cases may be cohorted in the shared rooms;
4. Where private rooms or cohorting is not possible, line-listed and non-line-listed clients will be managed in shared rooms with curtains pulled;
5. All clients (line-listed) shall be restricted to their rooms;

6. All non-line listed clients are permitted in the hallway but must remain on the affected unit;
7. Community leaves of absence are NOT permitted;
8. Rehab gym activities are discontinued;
9. Communal gathering spaces (e.g. TV lounge) are open for non-line listed clients;

#### DEDICATED EQUIPMENT

1. When possible, all of the mobile equipment in the rooms of clients on Special Droplet/Contact Precautions must be *dedicated* to those rooms;
2. Mobile equipment that cannot be dedicated (e.g. personal stethoscopes) must be thoroughly wiped with disinfectant wipes and/or alcohol-based hand rub before taken out of the room;
3. For ambulating line-listed cases a commode will be placed in the shared Hospital rooms;

#### FOOD DELIVERY, APPOINTMENTS & GROUP ACTIVITIES

1. Food for clients on Special Droplet/Contact Precautions will be delivered by F&NS staff to the unit on reusable trays → moved onto disposable trays with disposable utensils → and delivered to the patients by nursing staff;
2. Urgent medical appointments (e.g. ENT, trach changes) and out-patient appointments are at the discretion of MRP. Transport personnel and the receiving facility must be notified;
3. If approved, urgent medical appointments should be scheduled at the end of the day, when possible. Unit must provide a mask for client to wear while out. The client must be screened upon return;
4. All group activities are discontinued on the affected unit;

#### ADMISSIONS, RE-ADMISSIONS, TRANSFERS, AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE (LOA)

1. The affected unit is closed to new admissions;
2. Leaves of absences are not permitted for the duration of the outbreak;
3. Clients wishing to be repatriated to their family homes in the community are permitted to do so;
4. Inter-facility transfers to be coordinated through Toronto Public Health. The receiving facility to be notified;

#### STAFF

1. Whenever possible, avoid reassigning staff from the affected unit to other units;
2. When possible, medical and ancillary staff working on more than one unit should rearrange their work for the affected unit until the end of the day;
3. When possible, nursing and allied health staff should be dedicated to the affected unit;
4. Allied Health staff working on more than one unit should re-book non-essential appointments on the affected unit;
5. Staff who have tested positive and symptomatic cannot attend work and must be cleared by OHS prior to returning to work;
6. Ill staff members are not permitted as per active screening. They must notify OHS and are excluded from work until cleared by OHS;
7. If staff develop symptoms while at work, they must notify OHS and stay off work;
8. Non-sick staff may not pick up back-to-back shifts on other units;

9. Staff shall limit communal gathering (e.g. in the staff lounge) and observe social distancing principles;

PRIVATE COMPANIONS, STUDENTS, VOLUNTEERS, VISITORS

1. Private companions are permitted on the affected unit on a case-by-case scenario. Private companions and their employing families shall be notified by Unit Manager and Social Worker;
2. Private companions from the affected unit are not allowed to work on other units;
3. Students and volunteers are not permitted on the affected unit;
4. Only 'essential visitors' are permitted but are restricted to their client's room;
5. Essential visitors for clients on Special Droplet/Contact precautions must be informed of the risk;

WASTE DISPOSAL & TERMINAL CLEANING

1. EVS will perform enhanced cleaning and disinfection in the rooms of line listed clients;
2. Trained staff will support EVS using 'buddy system' for donning and doffing of PPE;
3. Nursing staff will double-bag garbage and linen hampers for pickup by EVS staff in the hallway;
4. Upon discontinuation of Special Droplet/Contact Precautions for line listed clients, EVS personnel will perform a supervised 2-stage terminal cleaning and complete the checklist;

DISCONTINUATION OF PRECAUTIONS

1. Discontinuation of precautions for the line-listed cases will be based on a time-based approach and will be determined in consultation with Toronto Public Health;
2. Declaring outbreak over will be determined in consultation with Toronto Public Health;