

## Healthcare Provider Preparedness Checklist for Novel Respiratory Viral Illnesses

Healthcare providers should be prepared to evaluate and manage patients who present to Emergency Departments or other ambulatory care settings for respiratory illnesses due to novel viruses. This healthcare provider preparedness checklist, modified from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention<sup>1</sup>, highlights key steps to assist healthcare providers to be prepared. This checklist should be used in conjunction with regional policies and procedures for the prevention of transmission of acute respiratory infections.

- Perform point-of-care risk assessment before every patient interaction to assess the risk posed to yourself, to other patients, visitors, and healthcare providers. Point-of-care risk assessment tools are available at:  
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cpip-pclcpi/annf/app-ann-d-eng.php>  
<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/ipc/hi-ipc-acute-care-pcra.pdf>
- Stay up to date on the latest information about signs and symptoms, diagnostic testing, and case definitions for novel respiratory viral illnesses. See information in the Public Health Agency of Canada's Public Health Notices available at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/phn-asp/index-eng.php> and the further links within each Public Health Notice.
- Review your healthcare setting's infection prevention and control policies and procedures with reference to Public Health Agency of Canada's recommendations for novel respiratory viral illnesses.  
Consider the following:
  - Triage, screening, and assessment of patients with acute respiratory infection. Refer to *Infection Prevention and Control Measures and Initial Management of Persons Who May Be Infected with a Novel Respiratory Virus* available at: [www.health.gov.sk.ca/nrv-prevention-control](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/nrv-prevention-control)
  - Patient placement and accommodation
  - Patient flow and activities
  - Visitor management and exclusion
  - Source control measures for patients
  - Education of patients, families/visitors on Respiratory Hygiene and Hand Hygiene practices
  - Personal protective equipment for healthcare providers
  - Infection prevention and control requirements when performing an aerosol generating medical procedure
- Promptly implement source control for patients who may be infected with a novel respiratory virus, before transport or upon entry to your healthcare setting and triage according to your facility's plans.
- Know how to report a person under investigation case to your Medical Health Officer or Public Health Office and to your local Infection Control Professional (ICP).

- Know how to notify Occupational Health when seeking an evaluation following an unprotected exposure (i.e., not wearing recommended PPE) to a suspected or confirmed case.
- Remain at home if you are ill.

## References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “Health care Provider Preparedness Checklist for MERS-CoV”, released July 11, 2013, last updated July 15, 2013 (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014) [<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/preparedness/checklist-provider-preparedness.htm>] – retrieved May 30, 2014].

*Reviewed by:*

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