

Dishes, Glasses, Cups, and Eating Utensils - Infection Control

Site Applicability

All PHC Acute and Long Term Care Sites.

Practice Level

Basic: All direct care staff and Food Services staff

Standard

Dishes, glasses/cups, and cutlery are not considered sources of infection and special precautions are not needed.

- Gloves are not required for delivery or pickup of food trays, dishes, or eating utensils.
- For patients/residents on [Contact](#) or [Contact Plus](#) Precautions, gloves and gowns are not required for delivery or pick up of food trays but may be worn based on a [point of care risk assessment](#). Perform hand hygiene before donning and after doffing [personal protective equipment](#).
- For patients/residents on [Droplet](#) or [Droplet and Contact Precautions](#), facial protection (i.e., mask and eye protection) must be worn for delivery or pick up of food trays when coming within two metres of the patient/resident. Gloves and gowns are not required but may be worn based on a point of care risk assessment. Perform hand hygiene before donning and after doffing personal protective equipment.
- Unit nursing staff may be required to deliver/remove meal trays/snacks when [Airborne](#) or [Airborne and Contact Precautions](#) are in place. Food Services staff will leave meal trays/snacks for patients on Airborne or Airborne and Contact Precautions in nursing station or outside the unit for nursing staff to deliver. Used meal trays will be collected by nursing staff and placed in food carts for food services staff to pick up.
- Disposable non-sterile or rubber gloves may be worn while cleaning food off dishes prior to washing.

Disposable dishes are not required. Regular dishes can be used for all patients/residents whether or not they have any infectious disease. The combination of hot water and detergents used in the hospital dishwashers is sufficient to clean all dishes, glasses, cups and eating utensils.

Related Documents

- [B-00-07-13088](#) - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Infection Control
- [B-00-07-13081](#) - Point of Care Risk Assessment - IPAC Best Practice Guideline
- [B-00-07-13045](#) - Routine Practices - Infection Control

Additional Precautions

- [B-00-07-13084](#) - Airborne and Contact Precautions - Infection Control
- [B-00-07-13028](#) - Airborne Precautions - Infection Control
- [B-00-07-13074](#) - Contact Plus Precautions - Infection Control
- [B-00-07-13029](#) - Contact Precautions - Infection Control
- [B-00-07-13079](#) - Droplet and Contact Precautions - Infection Control
- [B-00-07-13030](#) - Droplet Precautions - Infection Control

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/isolation-guidelines-H.pdf>

Public Health Agency of Canada. (2017). Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Healthcare Settings. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/routine-practices-precautions-healthcare-associated-infections.html>

First Released Date:	08-AUG-2006
Posted Date:	20-OCT-2022
Last Revised:	20-OCT-2022
Last Reviewed:	20-OCT-2022
Approved By: <i>(committee or position)</i>	PHC
	IPAC Standards Committee
Owners: <i>(optional)</i>	PHC
	IPAC