

Audience instructions



- ✓ **Type questions** in the Q&A feature.
- ✓ **Upvote** (by clicking the thumbs up icon)
Question order will change based on upvotes.
- ✓ **Comment** on questions.



- ✓ **Raise your hand** (click the hand icon)
If you would like to unmute your microphone to ask a question out loud.
- ✓ We are **recording** the session



INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL SESSION

Overview

- COVID-19 and renewed importance of IPC
- IPC decision-making
- Screening and point-of-care risk assessments
- Clinic set up for reducing transmission
- Donning and doffing
- Disinfection
- Hand hygiene
- Q&A

COVID-19 and renewed importance of IPC

COVID-19 terms 2020:

“Unprecedented”

Number of cases, worldwide spread all instantly reported by media of all types

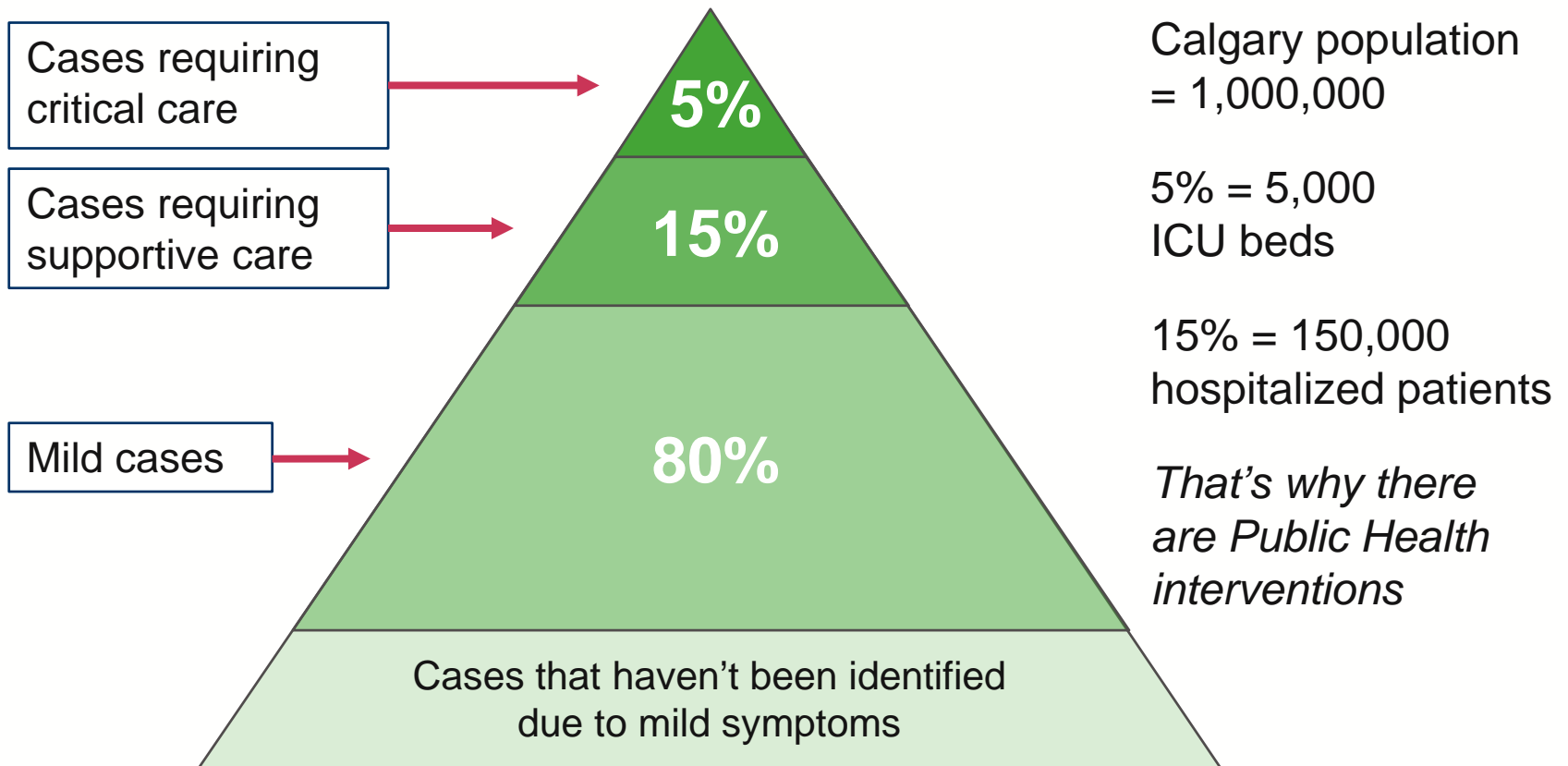
“Ever evolving”

Knowledge of the virus, How it's transmitted, its virulence, incubation period, recovery period, preventive measures

“An Abundance of Caution”

Newest PC term to describe responses to new activity

COVID-19 and renewed importance of IPC



Principles in making decisions around IPC

Justifiable, understandable by all, reasonable, and defensible/defensible

- **Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)**
 - What do I need to protect me
- **Environmental Cleaning**
 - What do I need to protect us (clinic staff, patients)
- **What's the worst that could happen**
 - Welcome to the IPC mentality
 - If it can spread, it will spread. Let's stop spreading (microbes and misinformation)

Screening recommendations

Prescreen with a phone call prior to appointment.

If a concern exists for a symptomatic patient, refer them to an assessment center for testing.

If the client must be seen or is in the clinic when symptoms are identified.

Either place them directly into an exam room or have them wait outside until you are able to do so.

If possible, have all patients wait outside (e.g., in their cars).

Point of care risk assessments



Clinic set-up: Patient flow

- Pre-screening clients and continuous mask use minimizes unprotected encounters. Minimize number of clients in waiting areas.
- Clinics should have designated and clearly labeled **Droplet and Contact Precaution** isolation room(s).
- Clear communication and processes so staff/physicians know which areas are “dirty” and which areas are “clean.”
- Continuous masking always when unable to maintain two-metre distance.

Clinic set-up: Patient flow

- Spatial separation whenever possible
 - Including breakrooms
- Reducing hallway encounters
 - Utilize one-way flow whenever possible
- Review your environment regularly
 - Reduce clutter, facilitate HH, frequent cleaning of high touch and patient surfaces
- Avoid paper documentation in exam room
 - Complete patient labeling of required test procedures outside the room (ie: swabs and collection containers)

Poll question

Do you have signs showing proper donning/doffing steps?

Clinic set-up: Signage

- Signs should be laminated for proper cleaning
- Clinics should have designated and clearly labeled **Droplet and Contact Precaution** isolation room(s)
- Step-by-step PPE donning and doffing poster
- “Dirty” and “Clean” signs on doors
- Clear signage for donning and doffing areas

Clinic set-up: Equipment

- Hand washing station and available hand sanitizer designated for staff
- Store clean PPE outside of exam rooms but readily available
- Eye protection should be available for staff and physicians (e.g., goggles) and worn for client interaction.
- Emergency cart or kit available and required equipment for oxygen therapy support, patient management. Considerations for cleaning equipment.
- Identify process to ensure equipment is fully stocked

Proper donning/doffing techniques

Before

- Before putting on a mask, clean hands with alcohol-based rub or soap and water.

During use

- Cover mouth and nose with mask and make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask.
- Avoid touching the mask while using it; if you do, clean hands with alcohol-based rub or soap and water.
- Replace the mask with a new one as soon as it is damp and do not re-use single-use masks.



Proper donning/doffing techniques

Removal

- Try to ensure no traffic in hallways when doffing PPE to avoid unprotected contact with patients.
- Clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- Remove it from behind (do not touch the front of mask); discard immediately in a closed bin.
- Do not push PPE down into the garbage bin.
- Remove gown slowly and with controlled movements.
- Clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.



Doffing: Tips and tricks

Improper doffing is a major contributor of transmission.

There is no leaving an exam room wearing PPE where droplet/contact precautions were used.

Facial and eye protection may be taken off outside of room if:

- client coughing, etc.;
- unable to keep recommended distance;
- clean mask applied immediately after removal of soiled mask.

Polling question

Do you have the information you need to share with your staff on how to properly don/doff PPE?

Disinfection: Tips and tricks

Studies suggest that the COVID-19 virus generally only survives for a few hours on a surface, though it may be possible for it to survive several days under ideal conditions.

COVID-19 is an “easy-to-kill” virus. Most household and all hospital Low Level Disinfectants are effective in deactivating this virus.

Between patients - Clean all equipment and treatment room(s).

Encourage targeted moment of environmental disinfection with spot cleaning of common areas/high touch surfaces throughout the day.

Clean **and** disinfect [frequently touched surfaces](#) at least daily.



Hand hygiene: Tips and tricks



Proper hand hygiene is the single most important measure to prevent the transmission of microorganisms.

- Use of alcohol hand rub is meant to be the default behavior.
- Use soap and water when hands are visibly soiled, after contact with chemicals, before preparing food and after contact with patient who has diarrhea.
- Healthcare providers – sanitize hands when greeting patient to avoid handshake and demonstrate good hand hygiene.

IPC information and resources

- **AHS IPC**
 - <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/page6410.aspx>
- **AHS Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) tips**
 - <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17119.aspx>
- **Donning and doffing 13-minute video: Guide to PPE**
 - https://ahamms01.https.internapcdn.net/ahamms01/Content/AHS_Website/modules/ipc-guide-to-ppe-update/story_html5.html
- **Posters**
 - <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/hi-ipc-chklst-contact-droplet-precautions.pdf>
- **CPSA IPAC Standards**
 - <http://www.cpsa.ca/ipac/general-ipac/>

Questions?