

	<b>POLICIES &amp; PROCEDURES</b> Number: <b>10-50</b> Title: <b>Abbreviations and Definitions</b>
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- Acute Care Facility (ACF)** A hospital where lengths of stay average < 30 days, and where a variety of services are provided, including surgery and intensive care.
- Additional Precautions** Precautions that are based on the method of transmission and are necessary for infections transmitted by the airborne, large droplet route or certain highly transmissible or epidemiologically important microorganisms transmitted by the direct or indirect route.
- Airborne Precautions** Precautions initiated to prevent transmission of small droplet nuclei that remain suspended in the air and are widely dispersed by air currents within a room or over a long distance. Barriers such as special high efficiency tight-fitting masks are used to prevent inhalation of these minute particles.
- Antimicrobial Agent** A product that kills or suppresses the growth of microorganisms.
- Antimicrobial Resistant Organism** A microorganism that has developed resistance to the action of several antimicrobial agents and that is of special clinical or epidemiological significance. Organisms included in this group are MRSA, VRE, ESBL, penicillin-resistant pneumococcus, and certain Gram negative bacilli resistant to penicillins and cephalosporins, and multi-drug resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Other microorganisms may be added to this list if antibiotic resistance is judged to be significant in a specific health care facility or patient population, at the discretion of the infection prevention & control program or local, regional or national authorities.

<b>Antiseptic</b>	A product with antimicrobial activity that is designed for use on skin or other superficial tissues; removes both transient and resident flora. The term is used for preparations applied to living tissue.
<b>Aseptic</b>	Condition free of all forms of life (sterile).
<b>Aseptic Technique</b>	To exclude all living microorganisms from the environment and to prevent those living harmlessly on the body from reaching an open area.
<b>Bacteriostatic</b>	A chemical agent capable of only preventing the growth of bacteria temporarily.
<b>Barrier Techniques</b>	Use of items such as single rooms, gloves, masks, eye protection or gowns in health care settings to prevent transmission of microorganisms.
<b>Carrier</b>	An individual who is found to be persistently colonized (culture-positive) for a particular organism, at one or more body site, but has no signs or symptoms of infection.
<b>CIC</b>	Certification in Infection Control.
<b>Cleaning</b>	The physical removal of foreign material, e.g., dust, soil, organic material such as blood, secretions, excretions and microorganisms. Cleaning physically removes rather than kills microorganisms. It is accomplished with water, detergents and mechanical action. The terms "decontamination" and "sanitation" may be used for this process in certain settings, e.g., central service or dietetics. Cleaning reduces or eliminates the reservoirs of potential pathogenic organisms. Cleaning agents are the most common chemicals used in housekeeping activity.
<b>Cohort</b>	Two or more patients colonized or infected with the same organism who are separated physically (e.g. in a separate room or ward) from other patients who are not colonized or infected with that organism.
<b>Cohort Staffing</b>	The practice of assigning specified personnel to care only for patients known to be colonized or infected with the same organism. Such personnel would not participate in the care of patients who are not colonized or infected with that organism.
<b>Colonization</b>	Presence of microorganisms in or on a host with growth and multiplication but without tissue invasion or cellular injury.

<b>Communicable</b>	Capable of being transmitted from one person to another; synonymous with "infectious" and "contagious".
<b>Community-acquired Infection</b>	Infection acquired outside a health care setting.
<b>Contact Precautions</b>	Precautions initiated to prevent the transmission of a highly transmissible or epidemiologically important microorganism through direct or indirect contact. Barriers such as gowns and gloves are established to prevent transfer of these organisms from the source patient or contaminated environmental surfaces.
<b>Contamination</b>	The presence of microorganisms on inanimate objects (e.g. clothing, surgical instruments) or microorganisms transported transiently on body surfaces such as hands, or in substances (e.g. water, food, milk).
<b>Contagious</b>	Capable of being transmitted from one person to another; synonymous with "infectious" and "communicable".
<b>Critical Items</b>	Instruments and devices that enter sterile tissues, including the vascular system. Reprocessing critical items involves meticulous cleaning followed by sterilization.
<b>Decontamination</b>	The removal of disease-producing microorganisms to leave an item safe for further handling.
<b>Disease</b>	Clinical expression of infection; signs and/or symptoms are produced.
<b>Disinfection</b>	The inactivation of disease-producing microorganisms. Disinfection does not destroy bacterial spores. Disinfectants are used on inanimate objects; antiseptics are used on living tissue. Disinfection usually involves chemicals, heat or ultraviolet light. Levels of chemical disinfection vary with the type of product used.
<b>Droplet Precautions</b>	Precautions initiated to prevent transmission of large droplets expelled from the respiratory tract, which are propelled a short distance through the air and are deposited on the nasal/oral mucosa or the conjunctiva. This droplet may also be transferred when these particles settle on objects and are transmitted by direct hand contact. Barriers such as masks, eye protection and gloves are established to prevent inhalation of or contact with these organisms.

<b>ESBL</b>	<i>ESBL (Extended Spectrum Beta Lactamase Producing Organisms)</i> are a group of bacteria that have the ability to produce enzymes which stop certain antibiotics from destroying them. Not only are ESBLs capable of breaking down antibiotics, they can transmit this ability to other organisms. ESBLs are found primarily in the bowel, but are also found in the urine and on skin.
<b>Germicide</b>	A chemical solution or method that will destroy most microorganisms; a disinfectant or an antiseptic.
<b>HAI</b>	Healthcare Associated Infections
<b>HCW</b>	Health Care Worker
<b>High Level Disinfection</b>	Level of disinfection required when processing semicritical items. High level disinfection processes destroy vegetative bacteria, mycobacteria, fungi and enveloped (lipid) and non enveloped (non lipid) viruses, but not necessarily bacterial spores. High level disinfectant chemicals (also called chemisterilants) must be capable of sterilization when contact time is extended. Items must be thoroughly cleaned prior to high level disinfection.
<b>ICP</b>	Infection Prevention & Control Professional
<b>ICO</b>	Infection Prevention & Control Officer
<b>Immune Compromised</b>	Increased susceptibility to infection. In this document the term refers to patients with congenital or acquired immunodeficiency or immunodeficiency due to chemotherapeutic agents or hematological malignancies.
<b>Infection</b>	The entry and multiplication of an infectious agent in the tissues of the host (a) inapparent (asymptomatic, subclinical) infection: an infectious process running a course similar to that of clinical disease but below the threshold of clinical symptoms (b) apparent (symptomatic, clinical) infection; one resulting in clinical signs and symptoms (disease).
<b>Infectious</b>	Caused by infection and capable of being transmitted. Synonymous with "communicable" and "contagious".
<b>IP&amp;C</b>	Infection Prevention & Control
<b>Isolation</b>	The physical separation of infected individuals from those uninfected for the period of communicability of a particular disease.

**Long Term Care Facility (LTCF)**

Residential care that includes a variety of levels and types of care for clients who can no longer safely live at home (e.g. because of their need for medication supervision, 24hour surveillance, assisted meal service, professional nursing care and/or supervision). Terminology varies provincially, e.g. nursing home; chronic care hospital, extended care unit.

**Low Level Disinfection**

Level of disinfection required when processing non critical Items or some environmental surfaces. Low level disinfectants kill most vegetative bacteria and some fungi as well as enveloped (lipid) viruses (e.g., hepatitis B, C, Hantavirus, and HIV). Low level disinfectants do not kill mycobacteria or bacterial spores. Low level disinfectants-detergents are used to clean environmental surfaces.

**MRSA**

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*

**Microorganism**

Organism seen by a microscope, e.g. bacteria, viruses, fungi.

**Nosocomial Infection**

Infection acquired in a health care setting.

**Non Critical Items**

Those that either touch only intact skin but not mucous membranes or do not directly touch the patient. Reprocessing of non critical items involves cleaning and/or low level disinfection.

**OH&S**

Occupational Health & Safety

**Outbreak**

An excess over the expected incidence of disease within a geographic area during a specified time period, synonymous with epidemic.

**Pasteurization**

The process of subjecting equipment to a moist heat treatment that kills some, but not all, of the microorganisms contaminating that equipment.

**Pathogenic**

An organism capable of producing a specific disease.

**Precautions**

Interventions implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from patient to patient, patient to health care worker, and health care worker to patient.

<b>Resident Flora</b>	Commonly termed normal flora or commensals. They live deeply seated within the epidermis – in skin crevices, hair follicles, sweat glands and beneath fingernails. They are less susceptible than transient microorganisms to the action of antiseptics, and scrubbing will remove them slowly, but not completely.
<b>RUH</b>	Royal University Hospital
<b>Sanitation</b>	A process that reduces microorganisms on an inanimate object to a safe level (e.g., dishes and eating utensils are sanitized).
<b>SCH</b>	Saskatoon City Hospital
<b>SHR</b>	Saskatoon Health Region
<b>SPH</b>	St. Paul's Hospital
<b>Semicritical Items</b>	Instruments and equipment which come in contact with unbroken skin or mucous membrane. These items should be sterile, but may be chemically disinfected (surgically CLEAN). If a surgically clean item comes into contact with the sterile field it will contaminate it.
<b>Sterilization</b>	Process of destroying all forms of microbial life, including spores.
<b>Transient Flora</b>	Are located on the surface of the skin. They are termed "transient" because direct contact with other people, equipment or other body sites all result in the transfer of these microorganisms to and from the hands. Can be removed by hand washing.
<b>VRE</b>	Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (VRE) is a bacterium that normally lives in or colonizes the bowel and genital tract. It tends to cause symptoms of infection only in people who are already seriously ill and cannot fight off infections very well and has developed a resistance to all commonly used antibiotics. VRE is found by culture test of body substances in a laboratory.

References:

1. Health Canada, *Infection Control Guidelines for Hand Washing, Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization in Health Care*, 1998
2. Health Canada, *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care*, 1999