

Summary Sheet for Point-of-Care Risk Assessments (PCRA)

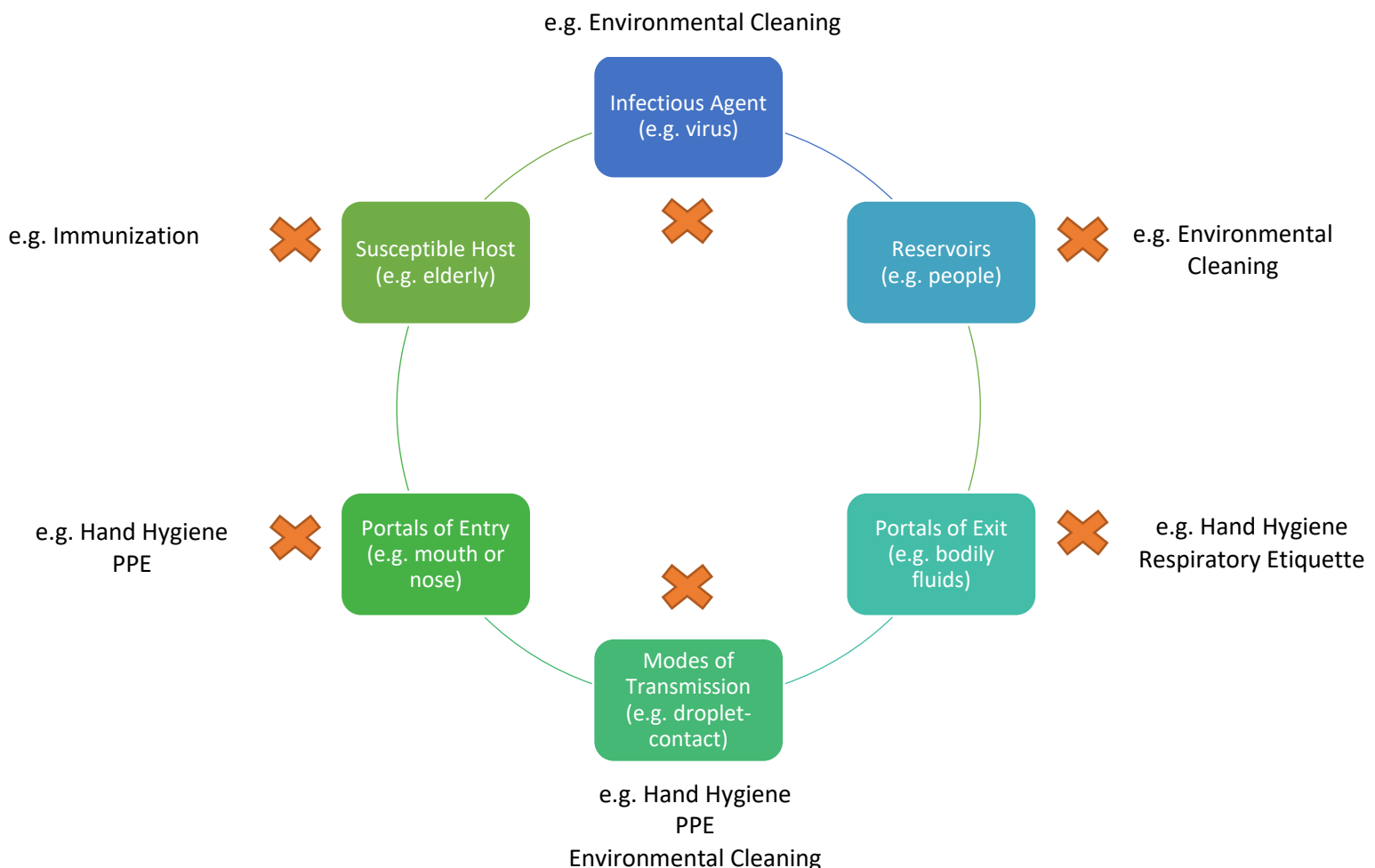
Best Practice Document: Public Health Ontario and PIDAC [Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings, 3rd Edition](#)

What is a point-of-care risk assessment?

- A PCRA is a process done by staff before every interaction with a client. This process is done so staff can determine if there is a risk of transmission of microorganisms, and subsequently decide which personal protective equipment is required in order to prevent this transmission
- A PCRA is part of routine practices

Chain of Transmission

- To stop the spread of microorganisms, we want to break the chain of transmission
- Breaking the chain can be done using routine practices and additional precautions



What are routine practices?

- Routine practices are minimum practices that are done with all clients at all times in order to stop the spread of microorganisms
- These routine practices are based on the assumption that everyone may be potentially infectious, even if they do not have any symptoms
- Routine practices are made up of:
 - PCRA
 - Hand hygiene
 - PPE
 - Environmental controls (includes cleaning, for example)
 - Administrative controls (includes policies and procedures and education, for example)

What are additional precautions?

- Additional precautions are used in addition to routine practices if someone is showing any symptoms or has a known infection
- These precautions vary depending on the symptoms present or known infection
- There are three different groups of additional precautions, which can also be combined
- Each group outlines which PPE is required when working with these clients
- The groups are:
 - Contact precautions
 - Droplet precautions
 - Airborne precautions
 - Droplet-contact precautions

Why are point-of-care risk assessments important?

- PCRA's are important to stop the spread of microorganisms and to keep yourself safe when interacting with clients

How do I complete a point of care risk assessment?

- Staff should ask themselves the following questions before interacting with all clients:
 - Is there a chance I could get bodily fluids on my hands or touch something that has bodily fluids on it?
 - If so, I should wear **gloves**
 - Is there a chance that my face may be exposed to a splash, spray, sneeze or cough?
 - If so, I should wear a **mask and eye protection**
 - Is there a chance my clothes could be splashed, sprayed, or touch something that may have blood or bodily fluids on them?
 - If so, I should wear a **gown**
 - Does this client have an infection or are they currently showing any symptoms of an infection?
 - If so, I should **follow additional precautions** based on their symptoms or known infection

Reference: Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings. 3rd edition. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; November 2012.

Additional Resources:

1. [4 moments for hand hygiene](#)
2. [Additional Precautions Signage and Lanyard Cards + Donning and Doffing Signage](#)
3. [Point of Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\) Algorithm \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)