

## Grey Bruce Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub

# Topic: Consideration for Assisting Residents with Showering or Bath During an Outbreak

Date: Friday, January 21, 2022

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Showering or tub bathing of residents is an essential of daily living. This can be done safely and effectively when a home is in outbreak.

### Consideration:

- Scheduling of residents based on their current health, always start with the well residents first, followed by asymptomatic positive followed by symptomatic positives
- Assist the resident to perform hand hygiene upon leaving their room and when returning.
- Ensure that the resident is masked when transporting them to and from their room
- Ensure that staff are appropriately trained in the selection and use of PPE.
- Always clean and disinfect the tub and high touch surfaces between each resident.
- For resident who are unwell and unable to be transported to the shower / tub room consider alternative bathing methods such as bed-baths

### PPE Selection:

The showering or tub bathing of residents may create splashes and sprays of water and the possibility of exposure to body fluids/secretions from the patient with the water splash. Staff must perform a point of care risk assessment to determine what personal protective equipment (PPE) is required. All staff must receive appropriate training on the care, use and limitations of any PPE that they are using. The effectiveness of PPE depends on the worker wearing it correctly and consistently. If manipulated or changed, breaches can occur.

- If you may be splashed or sprayed while assisting with the shower or tub bath, wear a water-resistant or waterproof gown, gloves and facial protection e.g., surgical/procedure mask with visor or goggles.
- Although bathing itself isn't an AGMP, homes may still want to consider wearing an N95 if the patient getting the bath is suspect/confirmed COVID.

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Modified:

- Discard single-use, disposable PPE after use. Exception: eye protection such as goggles, safety glasses and face shields may be dedicated to an individual healthcare provider and cleaned and disinfected for reuse.
- To reduce the risk of splashing, place items needed during the shower or bath, e.g., soap, face cloth, shampoo in a location within reach of the patient to use without help.
- Clean and disinfect reusable PPE after use, e.g., gowns can be stored or hung in a clean location.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection:**

- There must be a written procedure for daily cleaning and low level disinfection of tubs that follows the manufacturer's instructions. Responsibility for daily cleaning and disinfection must be identified in the procedure. Daily cleaning of tubs must be documented. Instructions should be posted and/or readily available to staff.
- There must be a written procedure for cleaning and low level disinfection of tubs and lifting devices between patients that follows the manufacturer's instructions. Responsibility for cleaning and disinfection between patients must be identified in the procedure. The procedure should be posted and the information readily available to staff.
- There must be a written procedure for routine and preventative maintenance of tubs that follows the manufacturer's instructions. Responsible person(s)/departments for preventative maintenance must be identified in the procedure. Maintenance of tubs must be documented, the procedure should be followed and the information readily available for maintenance staff.
- Multi-patient use product bottles in tub dispensing systems (e.g. body soap, hair shampoo and/or other personal care products) must be disposable and must be discarded when empty; and not refilled or topped up
- If the tub has a reusable reservoir for dispensing personal care products, the reservoir must be cleaned and dried before refilling.

### **Reference and Alternative Resources:**

Alberta Health Services: [PPE for Assisting Patients to Shower or Bath \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/ppe-for-assisting-patients-to-shower-or-bath)

Consideration for selection of gowns PHO has a document outlining the different levels of gowns: [Medical Isolation Gowns for COVID-19 in Health Care Settings \(publichealthontario.ca\)](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/medical-isolation-gowns-for-covid-19-in-health-care-settings)

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