2024 Updates in Red

NOTE: If you have a definition you want added to this document, please send information to the IP&C Specialist Chantelle Riddle-Yarycky @ criddleyarycky@wrha.mb.ca. Information must include: word/phrase, definition, and reference document.

1. Acid-Fast Bacteria (Bacilli) (AFB)

Microorganisms that are distinguishable by the retention of specific stains, even after being rinsed with an acid solution. The majority of AFB in patient specimens are mycobacteria, including species other than Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB) complex. The relative concentration of AFB per unit area on a slide (the smear grade) is associated with infectiousness. A positive culture is required for laboratory confirmation of MTB. [5]

2. Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI)

Any new onset acute respiratory infection that could potentially be spread by the droplet route (either upper or lower respiratory tract) which presents with symptoms of a fever greater than 38 degree Celsius and a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath (also known as febrile respiratory illness or FRI). It should be recognized that some elderly individuals and people who are immunocompromised may not have a febrile response to a respiratory illness. [2,25]

3. Additional precautions

Additional measures implemented when Routine Practices alone may not interrupt transmission of an infectious agent.
Used in addition to Routine Practices (not in place of).
Initiated based on condition/clinical presentation syndrome, and on specific etiology (diagnosis). [24]

4. Admission

Admission to an inpatient bed OR any stay in hospital, including Emergency Department/Urgent Care, for more than 24 continuous hours, whichever comes first. [2]

5. Aerosols

Solid or liquid particles suspended in the air, whose motion is governed principally by particle size, which ranges from 10µm to100µm. See aerosol-generating medical procedures below. [2,24]

Note: Particles less than 10 µm (i.e., droplet nuclei) can also be found in aerosols; however, their motion is controlled by other physical parameters. [24]

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6. Aerosol-Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs)

Aerosol-generating medical procedures (AGMPs) are medical procedures that can generate aerosols as a result of artificial manipulation of a person's airway. There are several types of AGMPs which have been associated with a documented increased risk of tuberculosis (TB) or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) transmission:
Intubation and related procedures (e.g., manual ventilation, open endotracheal suctioning);

- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (with airway manipulation);
- Bronchoscopy;
- Sputum induction;
- Nebulized therapy;
- Autopsy;
- Non-invasive positive pressure ventilation;
  - (CPAP, BiPAP).

There is debate whether other medical procedures may result in the generation of aerosols through cough induction and lead to transmission of infection. However, to date there is no evidence of the transmission of respiratory infections, including TB, SARS or influenza, by these methods. Examples of these procedures include:

- High-frequency oscillatory ventilation;
- Tracheostomy care;
- Chest physiotherapy;
- Obtaining nasopharyngeal swabs or aspirates**.**

Note: Irrigation of a wound / cavity or joint of a patient with suspected or confirmed non-respiratory TB has also been associated with an increased risk of TB transmission. [2,24]

7. Air Changes per Hour (ACH)

The number of air changes per hour in a room; one air change being a volume of air equal to the room volume (height X width X length). [5]

8. Airborne exposure

Exposure to aerosols capable of being inhaled. [24]

9. Airborne Isolation Room (AIR)

Formerly referred to as a negative pressure isolation room and an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR).

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A room designed, constructed and ventilated to limit the spread of airborne micro-organisms from an infected occupant to the surrounding areas of the HCF. These rooms are designed for use when caring for patients requiring airborne precautions; for example, patient with known tuberculosis, varicella-zoster, or measles. These rooms are designed to maintain negative pressurization relative to adjacent areas. [34]

10. Airborne transmission

Transmission of microorganisms via inhaled aerosols that results in an infection in a susceptible host. [24]

11. Alcohol

An organic chemical containing one or more hydroxyl groups. Alcohols can be liquids, semisolids or solids at room temperature. [24]

12. Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR)

An alcohol-containing (60% to 90%) preparation (liquid, gel or foam) designed for application to the hands to kill or reduce the growth of microorganisms. Such preparations contain one or more types of alcohol with emollients and other active ingredients. [24]

13. Animal Assisted Interventions (AAIs)

Encompasses various procedures that are goal-oriented and targets the specific aspects (developmental, therapeutic, emotional, and behavioral) of individual or group needs and involves working with trained animals. It is conducted by animal-handler team, by meeting the standards of the competent organization. [1]

14. Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI) Handler

A person who has knowledge in animal behavior, communication, animal training skills and animal welfare, has been trained to handle animals for the specific area in which they provide services. [1]

15. Animal Visit Liaison (AVL)

A staff member designated to provide support and facilitation to animal handlers visiting the facility. This includes keeping apprised of all animals entering the facility. [11]

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16. Antimicrobial-Resistant Organism (ARO)

A microorganism that is of clinical or epidemiologic significance, and has developed resistance to the action of one or more antimicrobial agents. Examples of microorganisms included in this group are methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Carbapenemase--producing Enterobacterales (CPEs), Candida auris and clinically significant antimicrobial resistant gram-negative bacilli (AMR GNB). Other microorganisms are included when antimicrobial-resistance is judged to be significant in a specific health care facility or patient population, at the discretion of the IP&C program or local, regional, or national authorities. The types of organisms designated antimicrobial-resistant vary over time and place. Resistance is determined by laboratory testing and assigned based on the current criteria of the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI).
Note: Organism list has been updated to reflect organisms currently significant in the Winnipeg Health Region. [2]

17. Antiseptic

A product with antimicrobial activity that is designed for use on skin or other superficial tissues; it removes or kills both transient and resident flora. The term is used for preparations applied to living tissue. [13]

18. Asepsis

The absence of pathogenic (disease-producing) microorganisms. [24]

19. Aseptic technique

The purposeful prevention of transfer of microorganisms from the patient's body surface to a normally sterile body site or from one person to another by keeping the microbe count to an irreducible minimum. Also referred to as sterile technique. [24]

20. Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) (TB)

A live attenuated vaccine derived from *Mycobacterium bovis.* [5]

21. Bioburden

The number and types of viable microorganisms that can contaminate the equipment / device. [3]

22. Biomedical waste

Waste that requires special handling and disposal because it presents a particular risk of disease transmission [34]

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23. Chemical indicator (CI)

Test system that reveals change in one or more pre-specified process variables based on a chemical or physical change resulting from exposure to a process. [44]

24. Chemoprophylaxis

The administration of a chemical, including antibiotics to prevent the development of an infection or the progression of an infection to active manifest disease or to eliminate the carriage of a specific infectious agent in order to prevent transmission and disease in others. [31]

25. Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

Abnormalities of kidney structure or function, present for greater than3 months, with implications for health and CKD is classified based on cause, glomerular filtration rate (GFR) category, and albuminuria category (CGA). [17]

26. Cleaning

The physical removal of foreign material, e.g., dust, soil, and 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. [24]

27. Closed-Loop Communication

A three-step process where:
1) The transmitter communicates a message to the intended receiver, utilizing their name when possible
2) The receiver accepts the message with acknowledgment of receipt via verbal confirmation, seeking clarification if required and
3) The original transmitter verifies that the message has been received and correctly interpreted, thereby closing the loop. [36]

28. Cohort

Physically separating (e.g., in a separate room or ward) two or more patients exposed to, or infected with, the same microorganism from other patients who have not been exposed to, or infected with, that microorganism. [24]

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29. Cohort staffing

The practice of assigning specific personnel to care only for patients known to be exposed to, or infected with, the same organism. These personnel would not participate in the care of patients who have not been exposed to, or infected with, that organism. [24]

30. Colonization/Colonized

The presence of microorganisms in or on a host with growth and multiplication but without tissue invasion or cellular injury. [2,24]

31. Communicable disease

An illness that is caused by the transmission of an infectious agent or its toxic products directly or indirectly from an infected person, animal or plant, an inanimate object or the environment. [21]

32. Communicable period (Period of communicability)

The time during which an infectious agent may be transferred directly or indirectly from an infected person to another person, from an infected animal to human, or from an infected person to an animal, including arthropods. [30]

33. Contact exposure

Transmissions where exposure occurs through physical contact between an infected source and a host or through the passive transfer of the infectious agent to a host via an intermediate object (fomite). [24]

34. Contact time (aka Wet contact time)

The defined time that a disinfectant must be in contact with a surface or device to ensure that appropriate disinfection has occurred. For most disinfectants, the surface should remain wet for the required contact time.

35. Contact transmission (direct or indirect)

Transmission that occurs when exposure leads to an infectious dose of viable microorganisms from an infected/contaminated source resulting in colonization and/or infection of a susceptible host.

Direct contact:

The transfer of microorganisms via direct physical contact between an infected or colonized individual and a susceptible host (body surface to body surface). Transmission may result in infection.

Indirect contact:
Passive transfer of microorganisms from an infected or colonized individual to a susceptible host via an intermediate object e.g., contaminated hands that are not cleaned between episodes of patient care, contaminated instruments that are not cleaned between patient use or other contaminated objects in the patient's immediate environment. [24]

36. Contamination

The presence of microorganisms on inanimate objects (e.g., objects within the vicinity of the patient, patient bedding, medical devices) or microorganisms transported transiently on body surfaces, such as on hands, on fomites, or in substances (e.g., water, food, milk). [13]

37. Cough etiquette

See Respiratory Hygiene #126.

38. Critical Incident

An unintended event that occurs when health services are provided to an individual and results in a consequence to them that: [45]

(a) Is serious and undesired, such as death, disability, injury or harm, unplanned admission to hospital or unusual extension of a hospital stay, and
(b) Does not result from the individual's underlying health condition or from a risk inherent in providing the health services.

39. Critical items/devices

Instruments and devices that enter sterile tissues, including the vascular system. Reprocessing critical items such as surgical equipment or intravascular devices, involves meticulous cleaning followed by sterilization. [24]

40. Critical Occurrence

Events within the Winnipeg-Churchill Health Region, (excluding those such as Critical Incidents policy #10.50.040 and Occurrence, Near Miss policy #10.50.020) that result in one or more of the following: [46]

- Serious harm to Staff, visitors and other persons associated with the facility;
- The potential to significantly and negatively affect public confidence, credibility and trust;
- Significant and prolonged disruptions to the delivery of service and programs, when the disruptions are unplanned or unexpected;

- An Emergency or Disaster, or;
- A Significant Event Affecting the Health of the Public.

41. Decontamination

The removal of microorganisms, by use of physical or chemical means, in order to leave an item safe for further handling. [18,24]

42. Designated Caregivers (DC)

Provide physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual and cultural support, as deemed important by the person receiving care. This care can include support in decision making, care coordination and continuity of care. Designated caregivers can include family members, close friends or other caregivers and are identified by the person receiving care, or substitute decision maker (note: Designated Caregiver language replaces essential care partner and designated family caregiver**).** [37]

43. Designated hand washing sink

This is a sink used only for hand washing for healthcare workers. [24]

44. Device

Means an instrument, apparatus, contrivance or other similar article, or an in vitro reagent, including a component, part or accessory of any of them, that is manufactured, sold or represented for use in

- diagnosing, treating, mitigating or preventing a disease, disorder or abnormal physical state, or any of their symptoms, in human beings or animals
- restoring, modifying or correcting the body structure of human beings or animals or the functioning of any part of the bodies of human beings or animals
- diagnosing pregnancy in human beings or animals
- caring for human beings or animals during pregnancy or at or after the birth of the offspring, including caring for the offspring, or
- preventing conception in human beings or animals

However, it does not include an instrument, apparatus, contrivance or article, or a component, part or accessory of any of them, that does any of the actions referred to in paragraphs (a) to (e) solely by pharmacological, immunological or metabolic means or solely by chemical means in or on the body of a human being or animal. [47]

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45. Direct Observed Therapy (DOT)

The process whereby a health care worker or pill dispenser watches the patient swallow each dose of medication as part of the treatment of active disease, to enhance treatment completion rates. [5]

46. Disinfectant

Chemical or combination of chemicals used for disinfection [18]

47. Disinfection

The inactivation of a disease-producing microorganism with the exception of bacterial spores. Hospital-grade disinfectants are used on inanimate objects and require a drug identification number (DIN) for sale in Canada. [24]

47.1 High Level Disinfection (HLD): A process capable of killing vegetative bacteria, mycobacteria (including mycobacterium tuberculosis), fungi, lipid and nonlipid viruses, as well as some, but not necessarily high numbers of, bacterial spores. [18]
NOTE: HLD is considered to be the minimum level of reprocessing required for semi-critical medical devices. HLD can be performed by chemicals at concentrations that are sporicidal when the contact time is prolonged; however, these chemicals are usually used as disinfectants for much shorter contact periods. High-level disinfectants are therefore potent disinfectant chemicals, and disinfectant MIFUs should be followed. [18]

47.2 Intermediate Level Disinfection (ILD): A process capable of killing vegetative bacteria, mycobacteria (including mycobacterium tuberculosis), fungi, and lipid and nonlipid viruses. ILD does not necessarily kill bacterial spores. Chemicals considered to have an intermediate level of activity will have approved label claims against both mycobacteria, and non-lipid viruses such as polio, enterovirus, hepatitis A, etc. [18]

47.3 Low Level Disinfection (LLD): A process capable of killing most vegetative bacteria and some fungi, as well as enveloped (lipid) viruses (e.g., influenza, hepatitis B and C, and HIV). LLDs do not kill mycobacteria, non-enveloped viruses, or bacterial spores. [18]
NOTE: Labels of low-level disinfectants cannot carry any claims in addition to those for vegetative bacteria; however, some products will carry claims for one or more viruses or fungi. LLD can be used for processing non-critical items and some environmental surfaces. [18]

48. Droplet

Solid or liquid particles suspended in the air, whose motion is governed principally by gravity. Particle size is greater than 10 µm. Droplets are usually generated by an infected source coughing, sneezing or talking. [24]

49. Droplet exposure

Droplet exposure may occur when droplets that contain an infectious agent are propelled a short distance (i.e. within 2 meters) through the air and are deposited on the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose or mouth of a host. [24]

50. Droplet nuclei

Airborne particles resulting from a potentially infectious (microorganism-bearing) droplet from which most of the liquid has evaporated, allowing the particle to remain suspended in the air. [5]

Note: Droplet nuclei can also be found in aerosols; however, their motion is controlled by physical parameters including gravity and air currents. [23]

51. Droplet transmission

Transmission that occurs when the droplets that contain microorganisms are propelled a short distance (within 2 metres) through the air and are deposited on the mucous membranes of another person, leading to infection of the susceptible host. Droplets can also contaminate surfaces and contribute to contact transmission (see also contact transmission). [24]

52. Drug Identification Number (DIN)

The number located on the label of prescription and over-the-counter drug products that have been evaluated by the Therapeutic Products Directorate and approved for sale in Canada. [24]

53. Emerging respiratory infections

Acute respiratory infections of significant public health importance, including infections caused by either emergence of new variants of known respiratory pathogens (e.g., novel influenza viruses, SARS) or emergence of as yet unknown pathogens. To view the most recent Emerging Respiratory Pathogens per the Public Health Agency of Canada, please click the following link: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/emerging-respiratory-pathogens.html [24]

54. Exposure

Having contact with a microorganism or an infectious disease in a manner such that transmission may occur. [25]

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55. Event related shelf life

The principle that a properly packaged item that has successfully undergone a validated sterilization process is considered sterile until an event occurs that could breach the protection provided by the packaging (e.g., through wetting, tearing, or dropping). [18]

56. Facial protection

Facial protection includes masks and eye protection, face shields, or masks with visor attachment. [24]

57. Febrile respiratory illness

A term used to describe a wide range of droplet and contact spread respiratory infections, which usually present with symptoms of a fever greater than 38°C and new or worsening cough or shortness of breath. Neonates, the elderly, and those who are immunocompromised may not have fever in association with a respiratory infection. [24]

58. First-line anti-tuberculosis drug

First-line antibiotics for the treatment of active tuberculosis disease. These are isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutol and pyrazinamide, and are considered the most effective and best tolerated. Streptomycin is no longer considered a first-line drug in Canada. [2.5]

59. Fit testing

The use of qualitative or quantitative method to evaluate the fit of a specific manufacturer, model and size of respirator on an individual. (Also see seal check). [24]

60. Flora

See Normal flora #105.

61. Fomites

Inanimate objects in the environment that may become contaminated with microorganisms and serve as vehicles of transmission. [24]

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62. Foot care nurse

The prevention, diagnosis and management of common foot conditions coordinated by nurses who have received specialized training. [10]

63. General visitor

Family and friends who visit for social reasons. Their time with the person receiving care is discretionary and short-term. General visitors are not involved in the provision of care. [37]

64. Genotype

The genetic constitution of an individual or group, as determined by the particular set of genes it possesses the genetic information carried by a pair of alleles, which determines a particular characteristic A gene or pattern of genes the precise details of which are defined [19]

65. Hand hygiene

A comprehensive term that applies to hand washing, hand antisepsis and to actions taken to maintain healthy hands and fingernails. [24]

66. Hand washing

A process for the removal of visible soil/organic material and transient microorganisms from the hands by washing with soap and water; also referred to as hand cleansing. [24]

67. Hazard

A term to describe a condition that has the potential to cause harm. Work-related hazards faced by HCWs and other staff are classified in categories:

- Biological and infectious;
- Chemical;
- Environmental;
- Mechanical;
- Physical;
- Violence;
- Psychosocial. [24]

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68. Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI)

Infections that are transmitted within a health care setting (also referred to as nosocomial) during the provision of health care. [24]

69. Healthcare facilities

Include, but are not limited to, acute care hospitals, emergency departments, rehabilitation hospitals, mental health hospitals, and long-term care facilities. [24]

69.1 Healthcare setting: Any location where health care is provided, including emergency/urgent care, pre-hospital care, hospital, Long Term Care (LTC), home care, ambulatory care and facilities and locations in the community where care is provided, (e.g., infirmaries in schools, patient or correctional facilities).
Note: Some settings provide a variety of care, e.g., chronic care or ambulatory care provided in acute care, complex care provided in LTC, etc. [24]

69.2 Pre-hospital care: Acute emergency patient assessment and care delivered in a variety of settings (e.g., street, home, LTC, mental health) at the beginning of the continuum of care. Pre-hospital care workers may include paramedics, fire fighters, police and other emergency first responders amongst others. [24]

69.3 Acute care: A facility where a variety of inpatient services are provided, which may include surgery and intensive care. For the purpose of this document, acute care also includes ambulatory care settings such as hospital emergency departments, and free-standing ambulatory (day) surgery or other invasive day procedures (e.g., endoscopy units, hemodialysis and ambulatory wound clinics). [24]

69.4 Ambulatory care: A location where health services are provided to patients who are not admitted to inpatient hospital units including but not limited to outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities (e.g., diagnostic imaging, phlebotomy sites, pulmonary function laboratories and dialysis units), community health centres/clinics, physician offices, dental offices, offices of allied health professionals (e.g. physiotherapy). [24]

69.5 Long Term Care (LTC): A facility that includes a variety of activities, types and levels of skilled nursing care for individuals requiring 24-hour surveillance, assistance, rehabilitation, restorative and/or medical care in a group setting that does not fall under the definition of acute care. [24]

69.6 Complex continuing care: Comprehensive care for persons with health care needs requiring more professional intervention than what can be provided in a personal care home environment. Most individuals require complex care related to complications of long-term illness and injuries which can include, but not limited to: specialized wound care, airway management (tracheostomy), nutritional support and/or dysphagia management (TPN, gastrostomy feeding) and long-term ventilator (breathing) support. [38]

69.7 Home Care: Care delivered where the person resides (e.g., homes, retirement homes, group homes and hospices). [24]

69.8 Healthcare organizations: The organizational entity that is responsible for establishing and maintaining health care services provided by Healthcare workers (HCWs) and other staff in one or more healthcare settings throughout the healthcare continuum. [24]

70. HealthCare Workers (HCWs)

Individuals who provide health care or support services such as nurses, physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, paramedics and sometimes emergency first responders, allied health professionals, unregulated health care providers, students, volunteers and housekeeping staff. [2,25]

71. Health Professional (HP) reportable disease

A communicable disease reportable to MB Health by a physician, registered nurse, or a member of a class of persons designated as health professionals in the regulations. [2,22]

72. Herd immunity

When a large percentage of the population is vaccinated in order to prevent the spread of certain infectious diseases. Even individuals not vaccinated (such as newborns and those with chronic illnesses) are offered some protection because the disease has little opportunity to spread within the community. In terms of influenza immunization, some scientists argue

herd immunity is not possible with influenza (due to ability of the virus to change rapidly), rather a "herd effect" can be observed when those immunized do not transmit disease to others [43].

73. High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter

A filter that is certified to remove greater than 99.97% of particles 0.3 µm in size, including M. tuberculosis-containing droplet nuclei; the filter can be either portable or stationary. [5]

74. High-Consequence Pathogen (HCP)

No treatment options, no vaccines, high chance of infectivity and serious sequalae including death. [39]

75. High-Level Disinfection

See Disinfection #47

76. Hierarchy of Controls

There are three levels/tiers of IP&C and Occupational Health controls to prevent illness and injury in the workplace: engineering controls, administrative controls and personal protective equipment (PPE). [24]

77. Hydrogen Peroxide Enhanced Action Formulation (HP-EAF)

A formulation of hydrogen peroxide that contains surfactants, wetting agents and chelating agents. The resulting synergy makes it a powerful oxidizer that can rapidly achieve broad-spectrum disinfection for environmental surfaces and non-critical devices. Some formulations have sporicidal claims. [3]

78. Immediate-Use Steam Sterilization (IUSS)

The shortest possible time between a sterilized item's removal from the sterilizer and its aseptic transfer to the sterile field. Immediacy implies that a sterilized item is used during the procedure for which it was sterilized and in a manner that minimizes its exposure to air and other environmental contaminants. A sterilized item intended for immediate use is not stored for future use, nor held from one case to another. Immediacy, rather than being defined according to a specific time frame, is established through the critical analysis and expert collaboration of the health care team. [18]

79. Immune person

An individual with sufficient resistance against a particular infectious agent to prevent contracting infection or disease when exposed to the agent (synonymous with non-susceptible). [19]

80. Immunocompromised

The following individuals are considered moderately to severely immunocompromised due to a medical condition and/or treatment:

- are receiving active chemotherapy (or immunotherapy) for cancer;
- have received a solid organ transplant and are currently receiving chemotherapy or other immunosuppressive therapy;
- were born with moderate or severe dysfunction of their immune system;
- are living with untreated or advanced HIV-AIDS; or
- are taking certain medications that severely affect the immune system. [40]

81. Impaired kidney function

Estimated Glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) less than 60mL/min/1.78 m2.
Also see Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD # 25). [17]

82. Incidence

The number of instances of illness commencing, or of persons falling ill, during a given period of time in a specified population. More generally, the number of new health-related events in a defined population within a specified period of time. It may be measured as a frequency count, rate or proportion. [30]

83. Induration

The soft tissue swelling that is measured when determining the tuberculin skin test response to purified protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin. It is to be distinguished from erythema or redness, which should not be measured. [5]

84. Infection

Microorganisms multiply within the body and cause a response from the host's immune defenses. Infection may or may not lead to clinical disease. [24]

85. Infection Control Professional (ICP)

A health care professional (e.g. nurse, medical laboratory technologist) with responsibility for functions of the IP&C Program. This individual, who must have specific IP&C training, is referred to as an infection control professional/practitioner or ICP. [24]

86. Infectious agent

Terminology used to describe a microorganism or a pathogen capable of causing diseases (infection) in a source or a host. Synonymous with microorganism for the purposes of this document. [24]

87. Infectious dose

A dose at which an organism can reproduce in the host and produce a measurable effect. [20]

88. Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)

A constellation of symptoms which may be exhibited by individuals prior to the confirmation of Influenza. [24]

Note: Case definition: Acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough and with one or more of the following:

- Sore throat
- Arthralgia (joint pain)
- Myalgia (muscular pain)
- Prostration (extreme exhaustion) that could be due to influenza virus.

In children less than 5 years of age, gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) may be present.

In patients less than 5 years or greater than 65 years of age, fever may not be prominent. [25]

89. Influenza-like Illness (ILI) outbreak

Two or more cases of ILI (including at least one laboratory-confirmed case) who are not roommates, bathroom mates or table mates occurring within a seven-day period in an institution. An institution includes but is not limited to hospitals, long-term care facilities for both adults and children (e.g., personal care homes, nursing homes, chronic care facilities) and correctional facilities.

90. Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA)

In-vitro T-cell based assays that measure interferon-γ (IFN-γ) production and that have been developed as alternatives to tuberculin skin testing (TST) for the diagnosis of latent TB infection. At the present time, two different types of IGRAs are registered for use in Canada. These are the Quantiferon®-TB Gold In-Tube and the T-SPOT.TB® assays. [5]

91. Invasive device

A medical device intended to come into contact with the surface of the eye or penetrate the body, either through a body orifice or through the body surface. [9]

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92. Intermediate Level Disinfection

See Disinfection #47.

93. Low Level Disinfection

See Disinfection #47.

94. Manufacture's Instructions for Use (MIFU)

Written directions provided by the manufacturer or distributor of a product that contain the necessary information for the safe and effective use of the product. [18]

95. Mask

A barrier to prevent droplets from an infected source from contaminating the skin and mucous membranes of the nose and mouth of the wearer, or to trap droplets expelled by the wearer, depending on the intended use. The mask should be durable enough so that it will function effectively for the duration of the given activity. The term "mask" refers to surgical or procedure masks, not to respirators. [24]

96. Medical device

Device within the meaning of the Food and Drugs Act, but does not include any device that is intended for use in relation to animals. [48]

97. Medical Device Reprocessing Area (MDRA)

A functional area that reprocesses reusable medical devices (not necessarily centralized). In smaller health care settings, such as clinics or offices in the community, this refers to any segragated area where reprocessing of reusable medical devices takes place, away from patients [18]

98. Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

Refers to strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* resistant to methicillin, oxacillin, doxacillin and all other β-lactam agents, including cephalosporins and carbapenems. MRSA is typically resistant to many classes of antimicrobials (e.g., aminoglycosides, erythromycin, quinolones). [30]

99. Microorganism

See Infectious Agent #86.

100. Mode of transmission

Mechanism by which an infectious agent is spread (e.g. via contact, through droplets or aerosols). [24]

101. Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDROs)

Microorganisms, predominantly bacteria, that are resistant to one or more classes of antimicrobial agents. Although the names of certain MDROs describe resistance to only one agent (e.g., MRSA, VRE), these pathogens are frequently resistant to most available antimicrobial agents. [41]

102. N95 respirator

A disposable, particulate respirator (Note: most respirators used for health care purposes are disposable filtering face pieces covering mouth, nose and chin). Airborne particles are captured from the air on the filter media by interception, inertial impaction, diffusion and electrostatic attraction. The filter is certified to capture at least 95% of particles at a diameter of 0.3 microns; the most penetrating particle size. Particles of smaller and larger size are collected with greater efficiency. The 'N' indicates a respirator that is not oil-resistant or oil-proof. N95 respirators are certified by the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH –organization based in the United States) and must be so stamped on each respirator (see also Respirator). [24]

103. Negative pressure isolation room

See Airborne Isolation Room (AIR) #10.

104. Non-critical equipment/items

Items that touch only intact skin but not mucous membranes. Reprocessing of non-critical items involves thorough cleaning and/or low-level disinfection. [24]

105. Normal flora

Microorganisms that colonize the skin, mucous membranes and the gastrointestinal tract early in life, generally harmless and benefit the host by competitive exclusion of pathogenic organisms [32]

106. Nosocomial infection

See Healthcare Associated Infection #68.

107. Nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT)

A process whereby genetic material is amplified and then subsequently evaluated for the presence of DNA material; useful to identify specific mycobacterial species. [5]

108. Occupational health

For the purposes of this document, this phrase refers to the disciplines of Occupational health medicine and nursing, Occupational Hygiene and Occupational Health and Safety. [24]

109. Occupational health and safety

A legal term that is defined in legislation, regulation and/or workplace (e.g., union) contracts that impact a variety of disciplines concerned with protecting the safety, health and welfare of people engaged in work or employment. The use of the phrase "Occupational Health and Safety" invariably refers back to legislation and or regulation that influence workplace safety practices. The definition and therefore the content encompassed by "OHS" legislation varies between and within jurisdictions in Canada. [24]

110. Outbreak

An excess over the expected incidence of disease within a geographic area during a specified time period, synonymous with epidemic. [24]

111. Organizational risk assessment

The activity whereby a health care organization identifies:

- Hazard
- The likelihood and consequence of exposure to the hazard
- The likely means of exposure to the hazard
- The likelihood of exposure in all work areas in a facility/office/practice setting
- Evaluates available engineering, administrative and PPE controls needed to minimize the risk of the hazard. [24]

112. Patient

For the purposes of this document, the term "patient" will include those receiving health care, including patients, clients or residents (PRC). [24]

113. Patient care environment

Inanimate objects in the proximate environment of the patient that may be a source of or may be contaminated by microorganisms for others. The immediate space around a patient may be touched by the patient and may also be touched by the health care provider when providing care. In a single room, the patient environment is the room. In a multi-bed room, the patient environment is the area inside the individual's curtain. In an ambulatory care setting, the patient environment is the area that the patient may come into contact with in their cubicle. In a nursery or neonatal setting, the patient environment includes the inside of the bassinette or incubator, as well as the equipment outside the bassinette or incubator used for that infant (e.g., ventilator or monitor). See also, *Health Care Environment*. [24]

114. Perinatal

Relating to the period shortly before and after birth; from the twentieth to twenty-ninth week of gestation to one to four weeks after birth. [6]

115. Personal care items

Personal care supplies include items used for bathing, skin care, nail care, oral hygiene and denture care. Included are the following items: lotions, creams, soaps, razors, toothbrush, toothpaste, denture box, comb and hairbrush, nail file and nail clippers and any other articles needed for personal hygiene. [15]

116. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

One element in the Hierarchy of Controls. Personal protective equipment consists of gowns, gloves, masks, facial protection (i.e., masks and eye protection, face shields or masks with visor attachment) or respirators that can be used by an HCW or other staff to provide a barrier that will prevent potential exposure to infectious microorganisms. [24]

117. Plain soap

Basic detergent products that do not contain antimicrobial agents, or contain very low concentrations of antimicrobial agents which are effective solely as preservatives. [24]

118. Point-of-care

Refers to place where a patient receives care from a HCW or other staff. Point of care incorporates three elements being present at the same time: The patient, the HCW and an interaction that could result in the transmission of an infectious agent. [24]

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119. Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)

A PCRA is an activity whereby an HCW (in any health care setting across the continuum of care):
Evaluates the likelihood of exposure to an infectious agent:

- For a specific interaction;
- With a specific patient;
- In a specific environment (e.g. single room, hallway);
- Under available conditions (e.g. no designated hand washing sink).

Chooses the appropriate actions/PPE needed to minimize the risk of exposure for the specific patient, other patients in the environment, the HCW, other staff, visitors, contractors, etc. [24]

120. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

Method of nucleic acid amplification. [5]

121. Precautions (including source control measures)

Interventions to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms between persons in health care settings including patient to patient, patient to HCW, and HCW to patient. [24]

122. Prevalence

A measure of morbidity based on current levels of disease in a population, either at a particular time (point prevalence) or over a stated period (period prevalence). It can be expressed in terms of either affected people (persons) or episodes of sickness per 1000 individuals at risk. [19]

123. Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) tuberculin

A preparation of purified protein derived from culture filtrate of Mycobacterium tuberculosis. The tuberculin skin test uses 0.1 mL or 5 tuberculin units of PPD standardized to a common lot. [5]

124. Reprocessing

The process of rendering a potentially contaminated medical device safe and effective for use on a patient. This includes disassembly, cleaning, verification of cleanliness, functionality testing, drying, lubrication, re-assembly, disinfecting, packaging, sterilizing and storage of the medical device as required. [18] **NOTE:** Not all steps might be required for every medical device; see MIFU's for direction.

125. Respirator

A device that is tested and certified by procedures established by testing and certification agencies recognized by the authority having jurisdiction, to protect the user from inhaling a hazardous atmosphere. The most common respirator used in health care is a NIOSH approved N95 half-face piece filtering respirator. The term respirator refers to a half-face non-powered air purifying respirator. It is a personal protective device that fits tightly around the nose and mouth of the wearer, and is used to reduce the risk of inhaling hazardous airborne particles and aerosols, including dust particles and infectious agents. N95 respirators are specifically for use in health care. See also N95 Respirator, Respiratory Protection, Fit testing, Seal check. [24]

126. Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette

A combination of measures to be taken by an infected source designed to minimize the transmission of respiratory microorganisms e.g. influenza. [24]

127. Respiratory protection

Respiratory protection requires the use of a respirator with NIOSH approved N95 or higher filtration to prevent inhalation of airborne microorganisms. [24]

128. Risk

The probability of an event and its consequences. [24]

129. Risk class

The classification assigned to a device involved in patient care based on the risk of infection involved with the use of the device. The classes are as follows:

129.1 Critical devices are devices that enter sterile tissues, including the vascular system. Reprocessing critical devices involves meticulous cleaning followed by sterilization.

129.2 Semi-critical devices are devices that come in contact with mucous membranes or non-intact skin, but ordinarily do not penetrate them. Reprocessing semi-critical items involves meticulous cleaning followed by high-level disinfection or sterilization.

129.3 Non-critical devices are devices and patient care equipment that touch intact skin but not mucous membranes. Reprocessing of non-critical items involves thorough cleaning and/or low-level or intermediate disinfection. [18]

130. Routine practices

A comprehensive set of IP&C measures that have been developed for use in the routine care of all patients at all times in all health care settings. Routine Practices aim to minimize or prevent HAIs in all individuals in the health care setting including patients, HCWs, other staff, visitors, contractors, etc. [24]

131. Seal check

A procedure the wearer performs each time a respirator is worn. This procedure is performed immediately after putting on the respirator to ensure that there is a good facial seal. Seal check has been called "fit check" in other IP&C documents. Refer to Appendix A of CSAZ94.4-02 Selection, Use and Care of Respirators (see also Fit Test). [24]

132. Semi-critical items

Items that come in contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes but ordinarily do not penetrate them. Reprocessing semi-critical items involves thorough cleaning followed by high level disinfection. [24]

133. Service animal

An animal that has been trained to provide assistance to a person with a disability that relates to that person's disability. [14]

134. Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI)

The case definition for reporting SARI is applicable to any person meeting all of the following five criteria (I, II, III, IV and V):
A person admitted to hospital with the following:
Respiratory symptoms, i.e.: Fever (over 38 degrees Celsius) AND new onset of (or exacerbation of chronic) cough or breathing difficulty
AND
Evidence of severe illness progression, i.e.: Either radiographic evidence of infiltrates consistent with pneumonia, or a diagnosis of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) or severe ILI, which may also include complications such as encephalitis, myocarditis or other severe and life-threatening complications
AND
Either admission to the ICU/other area of the hospital where critically ill patients are cared for OR mechanical ventilation
AND
No alternate diagnosis within the first 72 hours of hospitalization, i.e. Results of preliminary clinical and/or laboratory investigations, within the first 72 hours of hospitalization, cannot ascertain a diagnosis that reasonably explains the illness.
AND

One or more of the following exposures/conditions:

- Residence, recent travel (within ≤ 10 days of illness onset) to a country where human cases of novel influenza virus or other emerging /re-emerging pathogens have recently been detected or are known to be circulating in animals.
- Close contact with an ill person who has been to an affected area/site within 10 days prior to onset of symptoms.
- Exposure to settings in which there have been mass die-offs or illness in domestic poultry or swine in the previous six weeks.
- Occupational exposure involving direct health care, laboratory or animal exposure.
- Health care exposure involving health care workers who work in an environment where patients with severe acute respiratory infections are being cared for, particularly patients requiring intensive care.

OR

Laboratory exposure in a person who works directly with Laboratory biological specimens

OR

Animal exposure in a person employed as one of the following:

- Poultry/swine farm worker
- Poultry/swine processing plant worker
- Poultry/swine culler (catching, bagging, transporting, or disposing of dead birds/swine)
- Worker in live animal market
- Dealer or trader of pet birds, pigs or other potentially affected animals
- Chef working with live or recently killed domestic poultry, swine or other potentially affected animals
- Veterinarian worker
- Public health inspector/regulator [8]

135. Single-use/Disposable device

A device designated by the manufacturer for one use only. [16]

136. Smear

A laboratory technique for preparing a specimen so that bacteria can be visualized microscopically [5]

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137. Smear positive

A specimen that is positive for acid-fast bacilli.
Note: Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB) species may or may not be identified. This is because a positive smear could be a non-TB bacterium e.g. MAC (Mycobacterium avium complex, or it could be MTB. [28]

138. Source

The person, animal, object or substance that may contain an infectious agent/microorganism that can be passed to a susceptible host. [24]

139. Source control measures

Methods to contain infectious agents from an infectious source including signage, separate entrances, partitions, triage/early recognition, AIIRs, diagnosis and treatment, respiratory hygiene (including masks, tissues, hand hygiene products and designated hand washing sinks) process controls for AGMPs and spatial separation. [24]

140. Staff

All persons employed by the WRHA facilities, or WRHA funded facilities, as well as members of the medical staff, volunteers, board members, students and others associated through contracts. [26]
139.1 Direct care staff: All staff who come in contact with patients, patient care environments, patient care equipment and blood and body fluids. This includes but not limited to physicians, nurses, Allied Health (occupational therapist, respiratory therapist, physiotherapist, speech language pathologist, dietician, laboratory and diagnostic imaging technologists, pharmacist), Support Services (health care aides, home support workers, housekeeping, porters, transfer personnel, specific volunteers, unit clerks, and others deemed appropriate for each site/area/program. [27]
139.2 Non-direct care staff: All staff that does not have direct contact with patients, patient care environment, patient care equipment and blood and body fluids. This also includes corporate sites/area. [27]

141. Standard precautions

A term widely used in the United States and convey the same set of principles as Routine Practices [42]

142. Sterile technique

See Aseptic Technique #19. [24]

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143. Sterilization

A validated process used to render a product free from viable micro-organisms. [18]

144. Susceptible host

An individual without sufficient resistance against a particular infectious agent to prevent contracting infection or disease when exposed to the agent (synonymous with non-immune). [24]

145. Terminal cleaning

Terminal cleaning refers to the process for cleaning and disinfection of patient accommodation undertaken upon discharge of any patient or on discontinuation of Contact Precautions*. The patient room, cubicle, or bed space, bed, bedside equipment and environmental surfaces and sink and bathroom should be thoroughly cleaned before another patient is allowed to occupy the space. The bed linens should be removed before cleaning begins.
Note: Contact Precautions includes Droplet/Contact Precautions, Airborne/Contact Precautions and Enhanced Droplet/Contact Precautions. [24]

146. Transmission

The process whereby an infectious agent passes from a source and causes infection. [24]

147. Upper extremity supportive device

A wrap, splint, brace, cast, orthotic or compression device worn on the hand or wrist. [29]

148. Utility sink

A sink used for non-clinical purposes and not appropriate to use for hand washing. [24]

149. Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE)

Enterococci have always had an inherent resistance to many antimicrobials and can readily acquire resistance to other antimicrobials. Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci are enterococci that have acquired resistance to vancomycin, the drug of choice for treating multi-drug resistant enterococci infections. [30]

150. Virulence

The ability of the infectious agent to cause severe disease (e.g., Ebola: high; rhinovirus: low). [24]

151. WRHA facilities

Facilities or sites within the WRHA that are owned or operated by the WRHA or that are integrated Hospitals (Concordia General Hospital, Deer Lodge Centre, Grace Hospital, Pan Am Clinic, Seven Oaks General Hospital, and Victoria General Hospital, Golden West Centennial Lodge, River Park Gardens and Middlechurch Home of Winnipeg). [7]

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