

MEMO

Date: June 28, 2023

To:

From: Infection Prevention and Control
Dr. Ross Stimpson MD, FRCS(C), Provincial Medical Lead for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
Dr. Dana Moffatt MD, FRCP(C), WRHA Medical Director Endoscopic Services

Re: **Routine Practices and PPE in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy**

Health care workers involved in endoscopy procedures or responsible for reprocessing the endoscope after its use are reminded to follow Routine Practices in an effort to minimize the risk of infection. This includes regular and consistent hand hygiene.

While PPE provides an additional layer of protection, it must be properly applied and removed in order to avoid the PPE becoming a potential source of infection.

All personnel working in the endoscopy unit are responsible for complying with [Routine Practices](#), supported by the completion of a Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) prior to every patient interaction. The PCRA will enable the staff member to determine what control measures are needed to provide safe care and to protect staff from exposure.

Hand hygiene is to be performed **before and after every contact** with a patient and/or the patient environment.

Required Personal Protective Equipment (to be worn inside the room during an endoscopic procedure and/or while reprocessing endoscopes) includes:

- Gloves
- Fluid resistant gown - Change gowns between patient procedures, after cleaning/reprocessing instruments, and/or when the gown is dirty
- Required facial protection
 - Medical mask. A N95 respirator is required where airborne infection is suspected
 - Eye protection or face shield. NOTE: prescription eyeglasses are not sufficient to protect from splashes

PPE is not required outside the procedure room or outside the instrument reprocessing room.

References:

Public Health Agency of Canada (2010). [Infection Prevention and Control Guideline for Flexible Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and Flexible Bronchoscopy](#)

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (2018). [ASGE guideline for infection control during GI endoscopy](#)