

Infection Prevention and Control

Guidance for Ambulatory Care

How are patients who present with signs and symptoms of poliomyelitis managed in ambulatory care?

Always follow [Routine Practices](#), including a point of care risk assessment, and implement [Contact](#) Precautions.

- Healthcare providers wear PPE:
 - A disposable long sleeved gown
 - Gloves
 - Any additional PPE as indicated using a PCRA
- Place patient in a private exam room, with door closed. Limit access to that room and to any public washrooms if possible. If washrooms are required, limit access until cleaned by Environmental Services.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces in the waiting room or public washroom that may have been touched by the patient.
- Practice proper hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and water before and after every contact with an infected patient and/or their environment of care. If hands are visibly soiled, soap and water is the preferred method.
 - Hand hygiene should always be performed after removal of gloves.
- Use approved low level disinfectant to clean and disinfect equipment and surfaces after the patient leaves.
- Place contaminated waste (e.g., dressings) in biohazardous waste disposal bags.
- Wear PPE and use care when handling soiled laundry (e.g., bedding, towels, personal clothing).
- If the patient is being sent to any other health care facility, (e.g. Emergency Department or specialty clinic(s), call ahead and notify the transport service and receiving department.
 - Ensure Public Health is notified of the suspected case.
 - The patient should not use public transportation (e.g. taxi, bus).

References

Public Health Agency of Canada (2023). Guidance for the response and management of a poliovirus event or outbreak in Canada.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/publications/diseases-conditions/guidance-response-management-poliovirus-event-outbreak-canada.html>

Public Health Agency of Canada. (2023) Poliomyelitis (polio) vaccines: Canadian Immunization Guide. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-17-poliomyelitis-vaccine.html>

Public Health Agency of Canada (2023). Polio: For health professionals. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/poliomyelitis-polio/health-professionals.html>