



# COMPARISON OF IPC AGED CARE GUIDELINES

In 2024 the Aged Care IPC Guide was released. The Commission developed the Guide to support implementation of the strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards and to supplement the Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare for those providing care for older people.

ACIPC continues to receive feedback regarding the differences in transmission precaution terminology in the Aged Care IPC Guide compared to the Australian IPC Guidelines. In addition, signage for the aged care sector has not been provided to marry with the new terms.

Aged Care Infection Prevention & Control Guide (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, 2024)	Australasian Guidelines for Infection Prevention & Control in Healthcare (NHMRC, 2019)
<b>4 transmission-based precautions terms:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact precautions</li><li>• Respiratory precautions</li><li>• Combined contact &amp; respiratory precautions</li><li>• Combined contact &amp; respiratory (PFR) precautions</li></ul>	<b>5 transmission-based precautions terms:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact precautions</li><li>• Droplet precautions</li><li>• Contact and Droplet Precautions</li><li>• Airborne precautions</li><li>• Contact and Airborne Precautions</li></ul>
<b>PPE:</b> <b>Contact precautions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gown &amp; gloves</li></ul> <b>Respiratory precautions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respiratory - surgical mask, eye protection</li></ul> <b>Combined contact &amp; respiratory precautions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact and respiratory: surgical mask, eye protection, gloves &amp; gown</li><li>• Contact and respiratory with PFR: PFR, eye protection, gloves &amp; gown</li></ul>	<b>PPE:</b> <b>Contact precautions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gown &amp; gloves</li></ul> <b>Droplet precautions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surgical mask, eye protection</li></ul> <b>Airborne precautions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N95/P2 mask, eye protection</li></ul> <b>Combined contact &amp; droplet precautions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surgical mask, eye protection, gloves &amp; gown</li></ul> <b>Combined contact &amp; airborne precautions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N95/P2 mask, eye protection, gloves &amp; gown</li></ul>



# ACIPC

Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

Aged Care Infection Prevention & Control Guide (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, 2024)	Australasian Guidelines for Infection Prevention & Control in Healthcare (NHMRC, 2019)
<p><b>PPE signage:</b></p> <p><b>Contact precautions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact precaution poster</li></ul> <p><b>Respiratory precautions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Droplet precautions poster</li></ul> <p><b>Combined contact &amp; respiratory precautions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact and droplet precautions poster</li></ul> <p><b>Combined contact &amp; respiratory (PFR) precautions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact and airborne precautions poster</li></ul>	<p><b>PPE Signage:</b></p> <p><b>Contact precautions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact precaution poster</li></ul> <p><b>Droplet precaution:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Droplet precautions poster</li></ul> <p><b>Contact and droplet precautions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact and droplet precautions poster</li></ul> <p><b>Airborne precautions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Airborne precautions poster</li></ul> <p><b>Contact and airborne precautions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact and airborne precautions poster</li></ul>
<p><b>PFR use:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PFRs only required in high-risk situations - aerosol-generating procedure for an older person diagnosed or suspected of a respiratory infection- administration of a nebulised medicine and suctioning.</li><li>• In unusual and higher risk situations a PFR might be required IF advised by the IPC Lead following completion of a risk assessment.</li></ul>	<p><b>PFR use:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N95/P2 required for all airborne transmission organisms</li></ul>
<p><b>PFR fit testing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fit testing and checking are recommended to support the use of PFRs.</li><li>• Refer to national guidelines</li></ul>	<p><b>P2 Respirator fit testing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State/territory jurisdictional requirements and risk assessment.</li></ul>
<p><b>Mask terms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surgical mask</li><li>• Particulate filter respirator = PFR (P2 / N95 addressed in relation to PFR)</li></ul>	<p><b>Mask terms:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Surgical mask</li><li>• P2 / N95 respirators</li><li>• P2 respirators</li></ul>



**IPC leads are a requirement for accreditation for all RCH across Australia. The role requirements are very broad, enabling the tasks to be customised to the needs of the home.**

ACIPC has received feedback regarding the differing requirement of the IPC lead between documents, as well as the expectation to undertake advanced IPC risk assessment across multiple situations.

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission provide information on the role via the Infection Prevention and Control IPC Lead web page and the Aged Care Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Guide. Below is a comparison table between the two resources.

**Aged Care IPC Leads role requirement comparisons:**

	<b>Infection Prevention and Control Leads. (Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, 2022)</b> <b>Web resource:</b> <a href="https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/infection-prevention-and-control-leads">https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/infection-prevention-and-control-leads</a>	<b>Aged Care Infection Prevention &amp; Control Guide (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, 2024)</b>
<b><i>RACF/provider requirements of an IPC lead:</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Member of the nursing staff, completed an identified IPC course</li><li>• Employed by and report to the provider</li><li>• Must work on site and be dedicated to a facility</li><li>• Is the key infection control contact</li><li>• May have a broader role in the facility</li><li>• IPC leads for each RACF to be reported in the My Aged Care Service and Support Portal</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IPC system must be led by an IPC lead or an IPC team</li><li>• Have an on-site IPC lead</li></ul>
<b><i>IPC lead task descriptions:</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ongoing staff capability assessment and education</li><li>• Observes, assesses and reports on IPC of the service</li><li>• Routine IPC process oversight audit and review</li><li>• Provides IPC advice within the service</li><li>• Helps develop procedures</li><li>• Service-specific outbreak planning, preparation and readiness and on-site outbreak management</li><li>• Prevent and respond to infectious diseases, including COVID-19 and influenza</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IPC-related training and education for the workforce and older people</li><li>• Identifying gaps in IPC-related practice or training and identifying opportunities for continuous quality improvement and learning</li><li>• Conducting IPC-related monitoring and audits</li><li>• Providing updates to the workforce and older people on IPC issues and initiatives, as well as on relevant new local and national guidance</li><li>• Overseeing antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) and IPC practices</li></ul>
<b><i>Additional expectations RACF:</i></b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hazard risk assessment</li><li>• Consult on irritant contact dermatitis assoc. with HH</li><li>• Consult on staff failed fit testing</li><li>• Determine appropriate PPE for aerosol-generating procedure</li><li>• Risk assesses for PFR requirement</li><li>• Determine risk-based isolation</li><li>• Develop a facility outbreak management plan in conjunction with others</li></ul>
<b><i>Home/Community Care:</i></b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Residential and centre-based aged care home and community aged care organisations are not required to have a dedicated IPC lead</li></ul>