

# Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)

*Health PEI*



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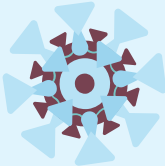
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# What is a PCRA?

A Healthcare worker's assessment of infection transmission risk:

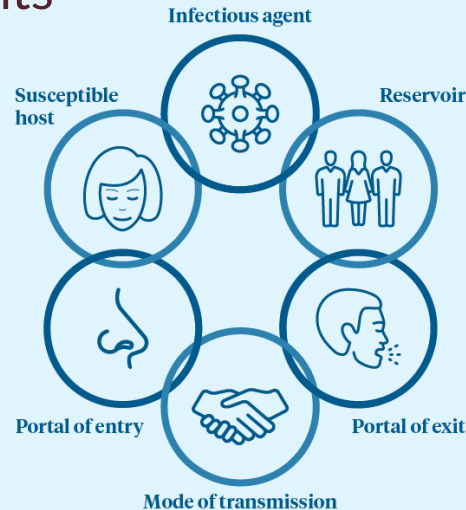
- during a specific interaction
- with a specific patient
- in a specific environment
- under available conditions



# Why is it important?

When performed correctly, a PCRA

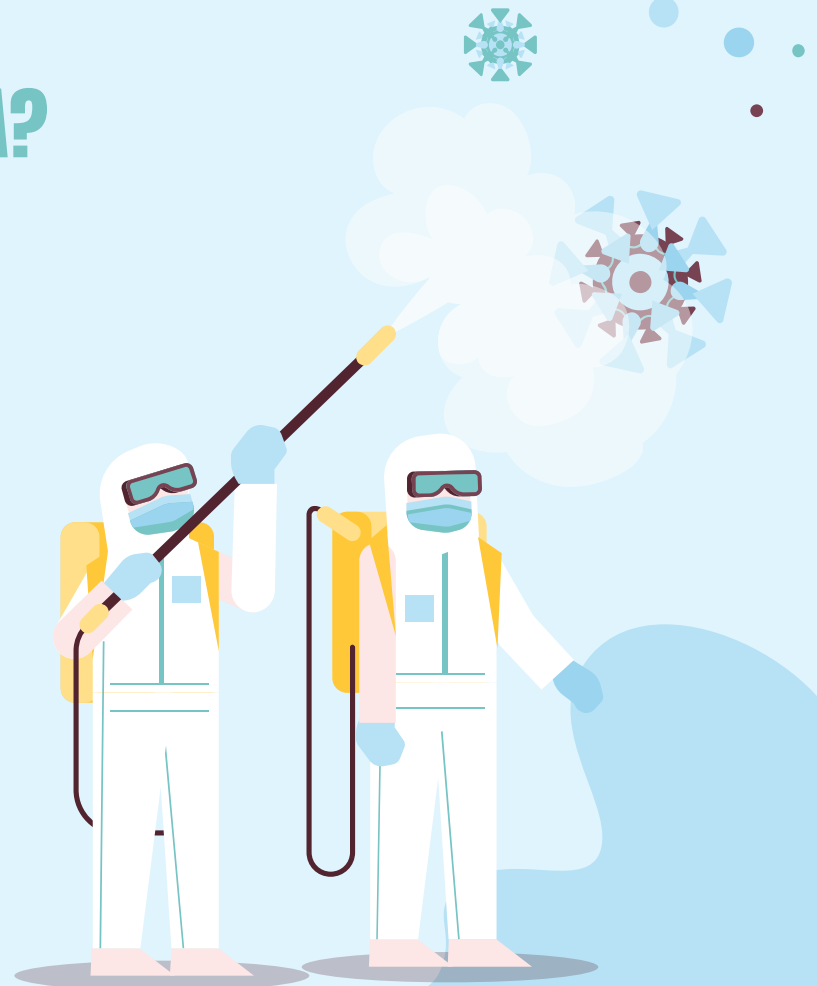
- Allows healthcare providers to select appropriate actions
- Allows for proper selection of PPE
- Reduces the likelihood of exposing yourself and/or others to infectious agents

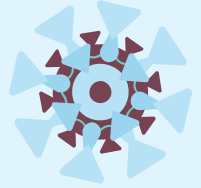


# Who Needs to Perform a PCRA?

EVERYONE!!!

- Clinical & Non-Clinical staff
- In any healthcare setting (LTC, acute care, community, outpatient)
- Anyone interacting with the patient or the patient's environment

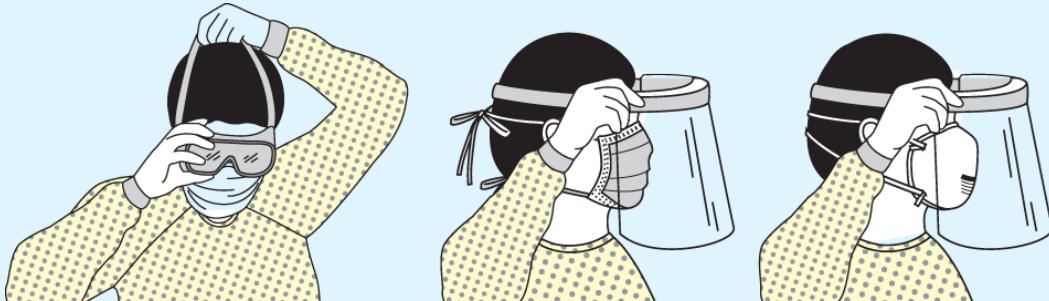




# When to Perform a PCRA

Before any point-of-care

- Before interacting with a patient
- Before interacting with a patient's environment





# Questions To Ask Yourself



1

What are the patient's symptoms?

2

What is the degree of contact?

3

What is the degree of contamination?

4

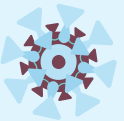
What is the patient's level of understanding and cooperation?

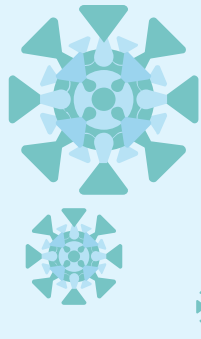
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What is the degree of difficulty of the procedure being performed and the experience level of the care provider?

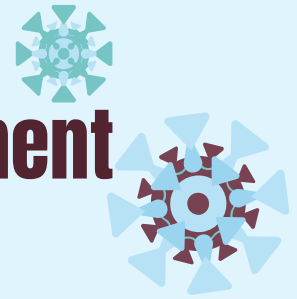
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What is my risk of exposure to blood, body fluids, excretions, secretions, non-intact skin and mucous membranes?





# When to Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



## Gloves

If your hands will be exposed to body fluids, secretions, tissue, or contaminated surfaces.



## Gowns

If your skin or clothes could come in-contact with contaminated surfaces or with body fluids; including through splashes or sprays such as sneezing and coughing.

## Masks & Eyewear

If your face could be exposed to a splash or spray of body fluids. For example, exposure to sneezing or coughing.



## N95 Respirator

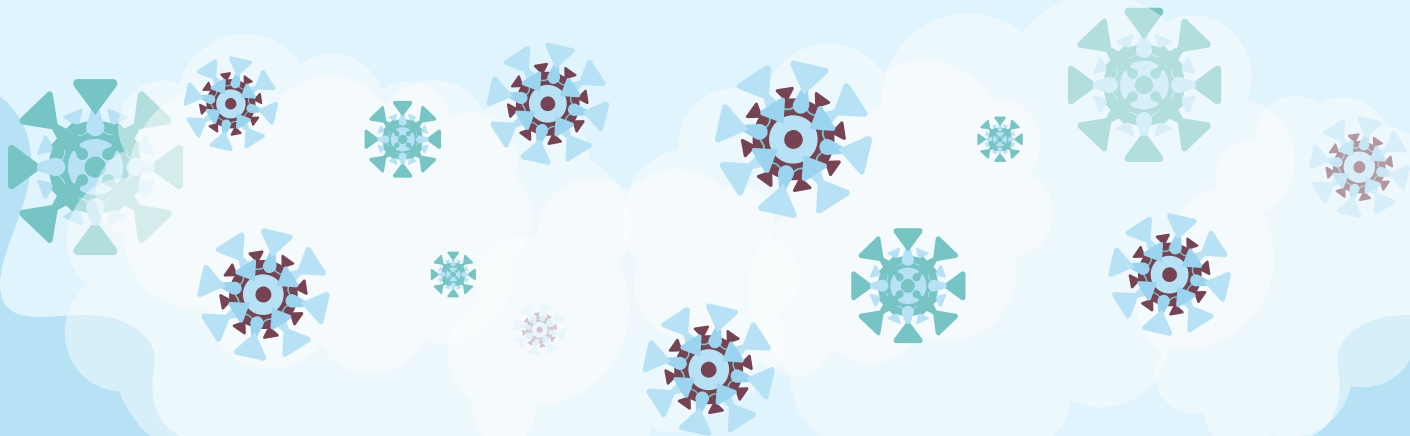
Used when patients/ clients are suspected or confirmed with airborne illnesses. For example, tuberculosis.





# How to Don & Doff PPE

- Disposable Over The Head Gown With Goggles and Mask
- Reusable Gown With Face Shield and Mask
- Disposable Gown With Visor and Mask



# When to Ask for Assistance

1

If you require  
equipment/supplies  
outside of the isolation  
room

2

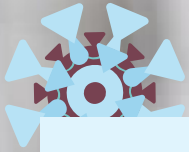
If you are struggling to tie  
your own gown

3

If your disposable gown is  
not tearing down the  
middle of your back

4

If you require assistance in  
the isolation room (can  
help reduce your risk of  
contamination)



- 
- 

**A staff member from environmental services is entering a patient's room to do cleaning. The patient had a swab done for whooping cough (pertussis), which came back positive. They are currently on contact droplet precautions.**



## **Case Study #1**

## In what order should the worker don their PPE prior to entering the room?

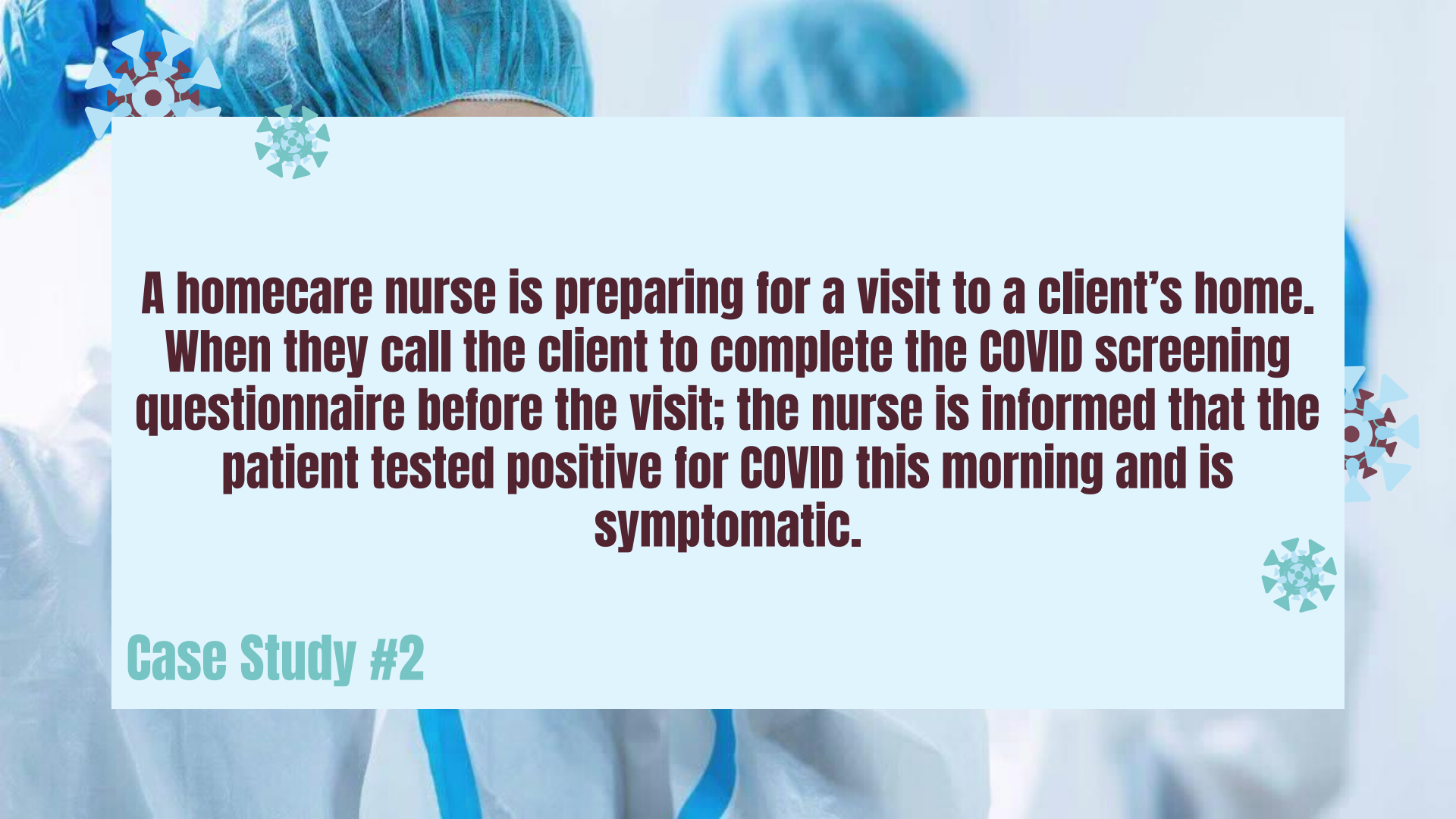
\*The sequence may vary when universal masking is in place.

- a) Eye protection, gown, gloves, mask
- b) Mask, eye protection, gown, gloves
- c) Gown, Mask, eye protection, gloves
- d) Eye protection, mask, gloves, gown

**Ans: C) Gown, mask, eye protection, gloves**

## What are two things to consider in your Point of Care Risk Assessment of this patient and their environment?

- Degree of contact
- The equipment needed beforehand
- Risk of exposure to body fluids
- Level of difficulty of procedure/task
- How experienced healthcare worker is



**A homecare nurse is preparing for a visit to a client's home. When they call the client to complete the COVID screening questionnaire before the visit; the nurse is informed that the patient tested positive for COVID this morning and is symptomatic.**

**Case Study #2**

## Where can you don your PPE?

\*The sequence may vary when universal masking is in place.

- a) At the Homecare office
- b) In your car
- c) Inside client's home (i.e., sunroom, garage)
- d) Outside client's home (i.e., driveway)

**Ans: D) Outside client's home (i.e., driveway)**

## What equipment should you prepare for your visit?

→ Gown

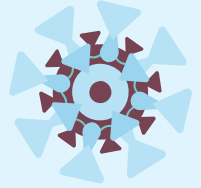
→ Eye protection (ex:  
face shield)

→ Hand sanitizer

→ Mask (doubled)

→ Gloves

→ Disinfectant wipes



# References

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