



Don't let the 'Virus Reaper' get you this Hallowe'en

To enter your name in a draw for a \$25 gift certificate to Farmer Jack's, review the following and let me know by email jo-ann.vandierendonck@lhsc.on.ca or tell Gina or myself when droplet precautions can be discontinued.

Respiratory infections, including pneumonia, with an unknown etiology are frequently caused by viral respiratory pathogens

- Influenza A & B
- Parainfluenza
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
- Rhinovirus
- Adenovirus
- Coronavirus.

When ill patients cough or sneeze, they expel virus-laden droplets into the air.

- These droplets travel app. three feet or one meter
- They are usually too heavy to remain suspended in the air for a long time
- If a droplet from an infected patient comes in contact with your eyes, nose or mouth, you may soon experience symptoms of the illness.
- Spread of illness in this manner is referred to as droplet spread or transmission.

To prevent transmission to staff and other patients, **Droplet Precautions**, in addition to Routine Practices, are implemented for patients who are known to be or suspected of being infected or colonized with microorganisms transmitted by droplets. Precautions can be discontinued if a noninfectious etiology has been established, when patient responds to antimicrobial therapy, or on discussion with Infection Prevention and Control.

- **Personal Protective Equipment** A fluid resistant mask and eye protection is required for all activity within 3 feet of the patient.
- **Signs and Stickers** Place a Droplet Precautions sign on the door of the patient's room
- **Transportation of Patient** When transporting a non-intubated patient, the patient must wear a procedure mask. The destination department or facility must be informed that the patient is on Droplet Precautions.
- **Visitors** A surgical mask and eye protection should be offered to visitors for activity within 3 feet of the patient. All visitors should wash their hands before and after visiting the patient.

Handwashing is the single most effective means of preventing the transmission of pathogens.