



Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) recommends that [routine practices](#) be followed by patients, residents, health care providers, elections officials, staff and volunteers when taking part in voting activities within Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) facilities.

### Patients and Residents:

- Patients and residents on airborne precautions and those who are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive (i.e. anyone on droplet/contact plus precautions) will be able to vote in their room only. Arrangements will be made to accommodate this request.
- Any other mobile patient or resident on additional precautions (excluding those noted above) may leave their room to go to a voting area.
- If going to a polling station, patients and residents shall perform hand hygiene prior to leaving their room and wear clean clothes/hospital gown and a housecoat. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all patients and residents going to a polling station will also be required to wear a face mask (if tolerated) as part of source control (Rationale for mask use: Elections officials are external to the facility).
- If voting in their room, patients and residents shall perform hand hygiene prior to handling the ballot.

### Elections Officials and Volunteers:

- Upon entry to the facility, officials and volunteers will be screened and required to put on a face mask.
- Officials and volunteers shall perform hand hygiene:
  - On entering a facility,
  - On entry and exit to a unit and,
  - When leaving a facility
- At the polling station, officials and volunteers will be asked to maintain 2 metre physical distancing from patients, residents and staff at all times. If physical distancing cannot be maintained or the patient/resident cannot tolerate a mask, then officials and volunteers will be required to wear eye protection (face shield or goggles). Alcohol based hand rub should be available at the polling station for voters to use before voting.
- For in-room voting, officials and volunteers will supervise outside the doorway while a staff member assists the patient/resident with voting.

### Staff:

- Staff who are required to assist patients/residents with in-room voting should:
  - Put on personal protective equipment, if patient/resident is on additional precautions.
  - Place the ballot on a clipboard, cover a table top or firm surface with a paper towel and place the clipboard on the covered surface.
  - When voting process is complete, remove personal protective equipment (if applicable) inside the room and perform hand hygiene.
  - Use facility approved disinfectant wipes to clean items taken into the patient's/resident's room (e.g., pens and clipboards) prior to moving on to the next room.

**Please note:** Paper does not pose a risk for transmission of germs as long as the recommendations are followed. Ballot papers can safely be placed in the ballot box or envelope without causing any risk to handlers of those ballot papers.

### References:

Alberta Health Services. Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patient Voting [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2020 September 25]. Available from: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/hi-ipc-recommendations-patient-voting.pdf>