

# Personal Items and Laundry Tip Sheet for Continuing Care Residents Families and Visitors

Note: This recommendation was developed by the Continuing Care Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Working Group. If you have any questions or comments contact IPC [ipcstvdadmin@ahs.ca](mailto:ipcstvdadmin@ahs.ca).

## Best practice recommendations

### 1. If you need assistance with pick-up and delivery of laundry

- 1.1 Check with the facility for pick-up and drop-off times for assistance with clean or soiled laundry.
  - Assistance may not be available for drop-off/pick-up on evenings, weekends, or holidays.
  - Laundry:
    - Soiled laundry for pick-up will be in a securely closed disposable bag or sealed bin labelled with the resident's name.
    - Drop off clean laundry in a new disposable bag or in a clean sealed bin labelled with the resident's name and room number.

### 2. Personal items, e.g., food, gifts, letters

- 2.1 Refer to the [Family and Patient Tip Sheet for Personalizing Spaces in Continuing Care, Seasonal Decorations, Costumes, Celebrations and Donations](#), and the public health information about [food](#).
- 2.2 Consult with site leadership, i.e., the director of care/charge nurse or designate, prior to bringing personal items in for the resident as space may be limited with priority placed on items needed for personal care or that contribute to day-to-day activities and well-being. For example:
  - Mobility devices such as walkers or canes, dentures, hearing aids, glasses, personal hygiene items, books, and magazines, etc.
  - Personal electronic devices like laptops, tablets, and cellphones.

### 3. Laundering resident clothing in a domestic washing machine

- 3.1 Refer to Domestic Laundry Machine [Poster](#) for laundering resident's items within a facility.
- 3.2 Transport soiled laundry in a closed container, securely closed disposable plastic bag or a washable cloth bag that can be laundered at the same time as the clothes.
- 3.3 Launder resident's clothing using a regular wash cycle followed by a cycle in the dryer.
  - Have minimal contact with soiled clothing. Roll or fold heavily soiled clothing to contain the heaviest soil in the center of the bundle without contaminating your clothing. Do not shake or hug dirty laundry. Place directly from the laundry container or bag into the washer.
  - Discard plastic bag, if one was used, or clean and disinfect the container.
  - Wash hands after handling soiled laundry and before handling clean laundry.
  - Fold clothing on a clean surface.
  - If laundry is being returned to the facility, return in a clean labelled bag or closed container.
  - Refer to MyHealthAB patient care handouts [Caregiving: Washing Soiled Clothes and Linens](#) and [Learning About Washing Soiled Clothes and Linens](#) for more information.
- 3.4 Wipe washing machine surfaces, especially touch surfaces such as doors/setting knobs or buttons, with a household disinfectant.

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## 4. During communicable disease outbreaks

- 4.1 During communicable disease outbreaks, families and visitors who usually launder the resident's clothing at home may be advised by site leadership to have resident's clothing laundered by the facility.

## 5. Resources

AHS IPC [Tips for Personalizing Spaces in Continuing Care.](#)



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