All Clinical Department/Program(s)
PHSA Personal Space and the Work Environment
Oct 26, 2021

What's New?	• This PHSA level guideline applies to CW and provides a recommended approach for assessing room occupancy in both clinical and non-clinical areas.
	• The guideline provides recommendations to promote respect for personal space.
	• Requirements
	    o Occupancy limits must not compromise clinical services.
	    o Other Hierarchies of control, PPE, Hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, policies and standards continue serving as main layers of protection for risk mitigation for transmission of all pathogens.
	    o Room occupancies must not be reduced below limits that were set during COVID-19 Pandemic
	    o Occupancy limits must consider the current state of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) infrastructure.
	    o Room layout and function must be considered in assessment of space in order to support and enable people to maintain personal space.

Why?	The PHSA COVID-19 Personal Space & the Work Environment Guideline promotes safe room usage while maximizing the use of clinical and non-clinical spaces across CW.
How does this affect my practice?	• Review the PHSA Personal Space & the Work Environment Guideline to ensure understanding of the new practice. • Consider psychosocial factors that impact personal space. • Avoid overcrowding whenever possible in all spaces. • Health care providers and staff need to be aware of and familiar with room layout, flow of movement, and room function to set up rooms for use. • HVAC function will impact room assessment for occupancy limits • Support patients/clients and visitors with concerns regarding room occupancy in collaboration with leaders on site and/or through the Patient Care Quality Office.
How do I find out more?	• Visit ePOPS for additional information
Who do I contact for further information?	• Speak with your program manager, operational and practice leaders for any questions first, and if needed, they will reach out to other supports for more assistance.