

## Purpose

This guidance document provides Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) best practice recommendations on outside food and other essential care items brought in by families for patients in Fraser Health Acute Care sites and within Long Term Care and Assisted Living facilities.

## Scope

This document applies to all Fraser Health Acute Care sites and Fraser Health Operated and Contracted Long-Term Care and Assisted Living facilities.

## Definitions

**Patients:** In addition to patients in Acute Care Settings, in this document, the term also refers to all residents, client, and tenants in Long Term Care and Assisted Living facilities.

## Process

Fraser Health recommends that the following measures are adhered to if food items and other personal belongings are being brought in by relatives for patients after agreement and arrangements are made with unit or facility staff:

- Food items that are prepared at home should be packaged in single-use food containers that can be discarded
  - Staff may reheat food using the designated microwave on site
- In Long Term Care facilities, it is preferred that any food item that is brought in should have a longer shelf life, do not require refrigeration, and are non-perishable
- Food and other essential items may be left with the staff at the nursing stations, or if the patient is in a Long Term Care facility, the items brought into the facility should be handed over to the staff at the entrance of the facility
- All essential care items (e.g., food, soaps, lotions, etc...) must be new products
- Any item brought in a disposable bag should be labelled with the patient's name, room number and date
- Leftover food must be disposed of as per the protocols at the facility
- Food items must not be shared with other patients
- Any clothing that is brought in for patients should be brought in a disposable bag
  - In Long Term Care facilities, clothing should be laundered onsite before issuing to patients
- Potted plants, flowers, vases are allowed; however, the exterior surface must be cleaned and disinfected using a hospital-grade disinfectant (e.g. Accel or Cavi wipes)
- Staff must perform hand hygiene after completing the cleaning task