

## 21. Surveillance for infections in the health centre setting

All clients/patients/residents entering the health care setting should be screened for symptoms of communicable infections. This may include questions about symptoms and about recent out of country travel.

Health care providers should maintain a high index of suspicion when screening anyone with new onset of acute respiratory illness (ARI) symptoms or other symptoms characteristic of a novel or emerging infection.

Routine general symptom questions (passive surveillance) asked at registration may detect cases of ARI as individuals enter the health care setting. If an ARI is identified, the patient should be segregated from other patients by 2 metres (as specified in the Droplet Precautions: Additional Precautions, Section 7-6).

Information posted and/or otherwise available for patients and visitors entering the facility is important for self-screening. (Respiratory Etiquette, Section 6)

**Surgical site infections:** Surgical wound infections should be reported back to the infection control service or surgical service where the surgery was performed, if it is reasonable that the infection may be related to the surgery or hospital stay.



