

UNIVERSAL/STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

Standard precautions apply to:

- Blood
- Bodily fluids, secretions, and excretions regardless of whether or not they contain visible blood
- Non-intact skin
- Mucous membranes

Standard Precautions are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms from both recognized and unrecognized sources of infections.

1. **Wash hands** before and after gloves are removed. If soap and water are unavailable, use foam or gel hand sanitizer until you can wash your hands with soap and water.
2. **Use Barrier Protection** to prevent skin and mucous membrane contact with blood or other bodily fluids.
3. **Wear gloves** to prevent contact with blood, bodily fluids, secretions, excretions, or other potentially contaminated surfaces or items.
4. **Wear mask and eye or face protection** if blood or bodily fluid droplets may be generated during a procedure or patient care activity.
5. **Wear protective clothing** if blood or bodily fluids may be splashed during a procedure or patient care activity.
6. **Wash hands and skin** immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or bodily fluids.
7. **Use care when using or handling sharp instruments and needles.**
Placed any used sharps in labeled, puncture resistant containers.
8. If you have sustained an exposure or puncture wound, immediately **flush the exposed area** and notify your supervisor.

AIRBORNE PRECAUTIONS

Airborne transmission occurs by dissemination of either airborne droplet nuclei or dust particles containing the infectious agent. Microorganisms carried in this manner can be dispersed widely by air currents and may be inhaled by or deposited on a susceptible host within the same room or over longer distance from the source patient. Therefore, special air-handling precautions and ventilation are required to prevent airborne transmission.

1. **Universal/Standard Precautions.**
2. **Wear N-95 Respirator mask and eye protection.**
 - A PAPR may be used based upon local protocols and patient situation/environment.
3. **Minimize patient dispersal of droplet nuclei** by placing a surgical mask on patient (do NOT place N95 mask on the patient).
4. Patient should be placed in a **negative pressure room.**



N95 respirator and face shield/goggles



Gowns



Gloves

DROPLET PRECAUTIONS

Droplet transmission involves contact of the conjunctivae or the mucous membranes of the nose or mouth of a susceptible person with large-particle droplets containing microorganisms generated from an infected individual. Droplets are generated primarily from coughing, sneezing, or talking and during the performance of certain procedures (suctioning, intubation, bronchoscopy, etc.) These large droplets do not remain suspended in the air and generally only travel short distances, usually 3 feet or less.

1. **Universal/Standard Precautions.**
2. **Wear N-95 Respirator mask and eye or face protection** when working within 3 feet of the patient.
 - A PAPR may be used based upon local protocols and patient situation/environment.
3. Patient should be isolated and placed in a **private room** when arriving at the hospital.
4. If transport or movement is necessary for the patient, **minimize patient dispersal of droplets** by masking the patient with a surgical mask (do NOT place N95 mask on the patient).



N95 respirator and face shield/goggles



Gowns



Gloves

CONTACT PRECAUTIONS

Microorganisms can spread through direct or indirect contact.

Direct – contact transmission involves skin-to-skin contact and physical transfer of microorganisms to a susceptible host from an infected or colonized person, such as occurs during patient care activities that require physical contact.

Indirect – contact transmission involves contact of a susceptible host with a contaminated object, called a fomite.

1. **Universal/Standard Precautions.**
2. **Wear gloves and protective clothing** when entering the patient area or room.
3. **Change gloves and wash/sanitize hands between tasks/procedures** on the same patient after contact with material that may contain high concentrations of microorganisms.
4. If transport or movement is necessary for the patient, **ensure that precautions are maintained** to minimize the risk of transmission of microorganisms to healthcare personnel, other patients, and contamination of environmental surfaces or equipment.
5. **Patient should be isolated or in placed in a private room** when arriving at the hospital.



Gowns



Gloves



Wash hands after
patient contact