

Standard Precautions

Standard Precautions will be used in the care of all patients/residents regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infection status. Standard Precautions apply to blood, body fluids, secretions and excretions, regardless of whether or not they contain visible blood.

Handwashing

- a. Wash hands after touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions and contaminated items, whether or not gloves are worn.
- b. Wash hands immediately after gloves are removed, between patient/resident contacts, and when otherwise indicated to avoid transfer of microorganisms to other patients/residents or environments. Wash hands between tasks and procedures on the same patient/resident to prevent cross-contamination of different body sites.
- c. Use soap and water or alcohol-based hand cleanser for routine handwashing.
- d. Use soap and water for handwashing when caring for patients/residents with C-difficile or when hands are visibly soiled.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

1. Gloves
 - a. Wear gloves when touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions and contaminated items.
 - b. Change gloves between tasks and procedures on the same patient/resident after contact with material that may contain a high concentration of microorganisms.
 - c. Remove gloves promptly after use, before touching noncontaminated items and environmental surfaces, and before caring for another patient/resident. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves to avoid transfer of microorganisms to other patients/residents or environments.
2. Masks, Eye Protection, Face Shields
 - a. Wear a mask and eye protection or a face shield to protect mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth during procedures and patient/resident-care activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions and excretions.
3. Gowns
 - a. Wear a gown to protect skin and prevent soiling of clothing during procedures and patient/resident care activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluid, secretions or excretions, or cause soiling of clothing.
 - b. Remove a soiled gown as promptly as possible, taking care not to contaminate clothing, and wash hands to avoid transfer of microorganisms to clothing, other patients/residents, or environments.

Patient/Resident Care Equipment

Ensure that reusable equipment is not used for the care of another patient/resident until it has been appropriately cleaned and reprocessed. Single-use items are not reused and will be properly discarded.

Environmental Control

Ensure that environmental surfaces, beds, bedrails, equipment and other frequently touched surfaces are appropriately cleaned.

Linen

Handle, transport and process used/soiled linen in a manner that prevents skin and mucous membrane exposure and contamination of clothing. Avoid transfer of microorganisms to other patients/residents and environments.

Patient/Resident Placement

Place patient/resident who may have a suspected or confirmed infectious condition, or who does not (or cannot be expected to) assist in maintaining appropriate hygiene or environmental control, in a private room.

Transfer of Patient/Resident to Other Units, Departments, or Facilities

Notify receiving unit, department or facility of any need for isolation precautions.

Sharps/Needles

- a. Do not recap used needles.
- b. Place used disposable syringes and needles, scalpel blades, and other sharp items in appropriate puncture-resistant containers.

Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette

Cover nose and mouth when coughing/sneezing with a tissue or mask. Perform hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions.

Notify manager or designee if experiencing fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, open wounds, lesions, rash or productive cough.