

VISITING PATIENTS WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES



STOP AND CHECK: VISITORS MAY BE ASKED TO WEAR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE). ALWAYS CHECK WITH A HEALTHCARE WORKER BEFORE ENTERING THE ROOM.

Use this guide to follow safety precautions when visiting a patient. A precaution is something you do to prevent the spread of infection from or to a patient.

Always check with a healthcare worker before entering the room.

Check with a healthcare worker for instructions on how to use required PPE during your visit.

AIRBORNE PRECAUTIONS

Examples: tuberculosis or measles

These diseases are spread by:

- Breathing tiny droplets that stay in the air for a long time and may travel long distances.

Keep the door to the room closed to prevent the spread of germs.

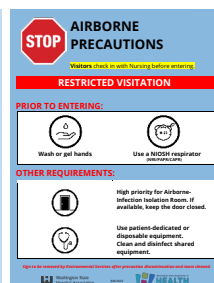
PPE Requirements:

Healthcare Workers:

- Wear a respirator (e.g. N95).

Visitors:

- Check with healthcare staff before entering the room.
- You may be required to wear a respirator (e.g., N95). Staff will show you how to put on the respirator correctly.
- If you cannot wear PPE, you may not be able to visit in person. Consider virtual visitation options, such as a video call.
- Ask the patient to wear a mask if possible.



CONTACT PRECAUTIONS

Examples: MRSA, other multi-drug resistant organisms, or open wounds

These diseases are spread by:

- Touching the patient and things the patient touches.

Avoid touching dressings, medical tubes, bed sheets, and other items the patient may touch.

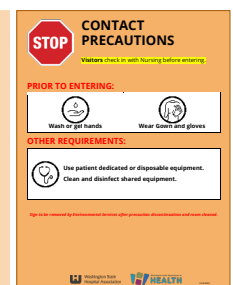
PPE Requirements

Healthcare Workers:

- Wear a gown and gloves.

Visitors:

- Check with healthcare staff before entering the room.
- Clean hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap & water.
- If you expect to touch the patient or their body fluids, you may be required to wear PPE such as a gown and gloves.



To learn more about all Infectious Disease Precautions, scan or visit:

<https://washington-state-hospital-association.myshopify.com/collections/isolation-precautions>

AIRBORNE CONTACT PRECAUTIONS

Examples: chickenpox, shingles, or herpes zoster

These diseases are spread by:

- Breathing tiny droplets that stay in the air for a long time and may travel long distances.
 - Touching the patient and things the patient touches.
- Keep the door to the room closed to prevent the spread of germs.

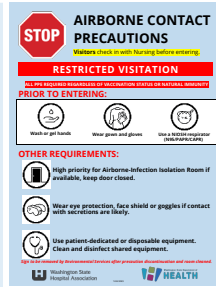
PPE Requirements

Healthcare Workers:

- Wear a respirator (e.g. N95), gown and gloves.

Visitors:

- Check with healthcare staff before entering the room. Wear a gown, gloves and an N95.
- You may be required to wear a respirator (e.g.N95), gown and gloves. Staff will show you how to put on the respirator correctly..
- Visitation may be limited to those who are immune to the disease (e.g., vaccinated or had disease)
- Ask the patient to wear a mask if possible.



AEROSOL CONTACT PRECAUTIONS

Examples: COVID-19 or MPOX

These diseases are spread by:

- Large droplets in the air and on surfaces from coughing and sneezing.
- Breathing tiny droplets that stay in the air for a long time and may travel long distances.
- Clean hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.

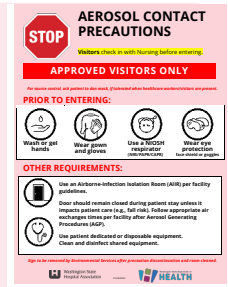
PPE Requirements

Healthcare Workers:

- Wear a respirator (e.g. N95) with eye protection, gown and gloves.

Visitors:

- Check with healthcare staff before entering the room. You may be required to wear PPE such as a respirator (e.g. N95), eye protection, gown and gloves. Staff will show you how to put on the respirator correctly. If a respirator is not possible you may be offered a well fitted mask.
- Clean hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.
- Ask the patient to wear a mask if possible.



CONTACT ENTERIC PRECAUTIONS

Examples: norovirus or Clostridioides difficile (C. diff)

These diseases are spread by:

- When fecal (poop) or vomit particles come in contact with the mouth.
- Touching the patient and things the patient touches.

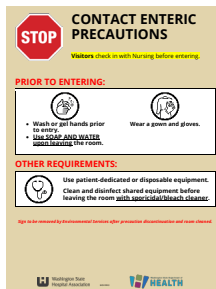
PPE Requirements

Healthcare Workers:

- Wear a gown and gloves. Wear a mask and eye protection if the patient is vomiting or has diarrhea.

Visitors:

- Check with healthcare staff before entering the room.
- Wash your hands with soap and water before leaving or touching your face.
- You may be required to wear PPE such as a gown and gloves. A mask and eye protection may be required if the patient is vomiting or has diarrhea.



DROPLET PRECAUTIONS

Examples: flu, whooping cough, or the common cold

These diseases are spread by:

- Large droplets in the air and on surfaces from coughing and sneezing.

PPE Requirements

Healthcare Workers:

- Wear a mask and eye protection.

Visitors:

- Check with healthcare staff before entering the room.
- You may be required to wear PPE such as a mask and eye protection.
- Ask the patient to wear a mask if possible.

