If you have questions about this module, contact the Infection Prevention department at your facility.
Standard Precautions

Standard Precautions should be used for **ALL** patient interactions.

- Standard Precautions encompass the following:
  - Hand Hygiene/Cough Etiquette
  - Personal protective equipment (PPE) specific to the job performed
  - Safe injection practices

- Some patients require isolation to prevent the spread of infections to other patients, visitors, healthcare workers, and staff.
Transmission-based Isolation Precautions (a.k.a. Isolation)

Isolation precautions are used to protect all patients and staff from the spread of harmful germs.

The isolation sign is the primary notification for all staff of isolation status

A patient travel screening should be completed for all patients in all settings to help identify the need for isolation precautions quickly.
Contact Isolation

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is one example of a pathogen that is shared by contact transmission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Contact</th>
<th>Indirect Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct contact transmission occurs when microorganisms are carried from one person to another without the involvement of the environment (i.e. hands).</td>
<td>Indirect contact transmission occurs when microorganisms are carried from one person to another through a contaminated environmental source (i.e. light switch or handrail).</td>
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One of the most important contributors to indirect contact spread is your hands.

Contact transmission is the most common way to share germs in a healthcare setting.
Droplet Isolation

Influenza (flu) is one example of a pathogen shared by droplet transmission.

- Droplet transmission occurs when a susceptible person inhales respiratory droplets from an infected person.

- Respiratory droplets are large, heavy drops released by the respiratory tract when an infected person sneezes, coughs, talks, or breaths.

- Some respiratory viruses can also be transmitted when a susceptible person touches surfaces contaminated with respiratory droplets.
  - Patients with these viruses require both contact and droplet isolation.
  - Patients who have a viral respiratory panel pending or who have Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) need contact and droplet isolation.
Airborne Isolation

Airborne transmission occurs by the spread of airborne droplet nuclei, which are small in size and carried on air currents.

Airborne droplet nuclei can cross barriers such as cracked doors and improperly sealed windows.

Airborne isolation rooms are specially constructed to have negative pressure to prevent air escape into the corridor.
- Air is filtered within the room and vented to the outdoors.
- The room door is kept closed to maintain negative pressure.
- Before placing a patient in an airborne isolation room, check with Facility Services to ensure that the pressure and ventilation are working properly.
- Staff wear N-95 respirator (if fit-tested) or PAPR into the room each time.
- Visitors wear a regular/surgical mask (visitors should be limited).
- When patients are outside their negative-pressure room, they wear a regular/surgical mask.
- Home care staff must use an N-95 mask to care for patients in the home.

Some patients with shingles (varicella) may need airborne isolation if they are immunocompromised or have disseminated shingles (over more than one dermatome).

Air pressure and flow are monitored by the Facilities department. Know which rooms on your unit or in your facility have special ventilation.
Personal Protective Equipment

Protect Yourself! Wear PPE appropriate to your task to prevent exposure to blood, body fluids, and chemicals.

Don PPE

Hand Hygiene  Gown  Mask or Respirator  Goggles or Mask with Face Shield  Gloves

Remove PPE

Hand Hygiene  Mask or Respirator  Gown  Goggles or Mask with Face Shield  Hand Hygiene  Gloves
What do you wear for isolation?

**Standard Precautions**
- PPE specific to the task
- Mask with face shield, gown & gloves for tasks with splash potential

**Airborne Isolation**
- N-95 Respirator (if fit-tested)
  - or -
- PAPR (Powered Air Purifying Respirator)

**Droplet Isolation**
- Mask with shield

**Contact Isolation**
- Gown & Gloves

Refer to your facility’s isolation tables or call Infection Prevention if you have any questions about isolation or what type of PPE to wear.