

Isolation – Initiating Transmission-Based Precautions

Highlights	Policy Statement
	<p>Transmission-Based Precautions will be initiated when there is reason to believe that a resident has a communicable infectious disease. Transmission-Based Precautions may include Contact Precautions, Droplet Precautions, or Airborne Precautions.</p>
	<p>The facility shall make every effort to use the least restrictive approach to managing individuals with potentially communicable infections. Whenever possible, precautions shall be used that do not involve isolation of the resident. Isolation shall only be used when transmission cannot be reasonably prevented by less restrictive measures.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Policy Interpretation and Implementation</p>
Notification of Attending Physician	1. If a resident is suspected of, or identified as, having a communicable infectious disease, the Charge Nurse or Nursing Supervisor shall notify the resident’s Attending Physician for appropriate Transmission-Based Precautions.
Physician’s Orders for Isolation	2. The Charge Nurse shall obtain and document a physician’s order for appropriate isolation precautions. The physician’s orders must be carried out promptly.
Failure of Attending Physician to Take Appropriate Action	3. If the Attending Physician or his/her alternate fails to respond appropriately to notification of a suspected or confirmed communicable infectious disease, the staff will inform the Medical Director and Administrator.
Authority to Implement Isolation Precautions	4. In the event the Attending Physician fails to take appropriate action, the Medical Director shall have the authority to implement appropriate Transmission-Based Precautions.
Orders for Discontinuing Isolation	5. Transmission-Based Precautions shall remain in effect until the Attending Physician discontinues them, which should occur after pertinent criteria for discontinuation are met.
Responsibilities in the Implementation of Isolation	<p>6. When Transmission-Based Precautions are implemented, the Infection Control Coordinator (or designee) shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ensure that protective equipment (i.e., gloves, gowns, masks, etc.) is maintained near the resident’s room so that everyone entering the room can access what they need; b. Post the appropriate notice on the room entrance door, so that all personnel will be aware of precautions, or be aware that they must first see a nurse to obtain additional information about the situation before entering the room; c. Ensure that a laundry hamper and appropriate waste containers are placed in/near the resident’s room and that each is lined with a red plastic liner; d. Place necessary equipment and supplies in the room that will be needed during the period of Transmission-Based Precautions; e. Be sure that an adequate supply of antiseptic soap and paper towels are maintained in the room during the isolation period; and f. Explain to the resident (or representative) the reason(s) for the precautions.

continues on next page

Authority in Emergency Situations

7. In an emergency, the Administrator, Medical Director, and DON shall have the administrative authority, accountability, and responsibility to:
 - a. Institute all actions necessary to control or prevent infections within the facility;
 - b. Notify the health department of reportable diseases, as appropriate;
 - c. Initiate isolation barriers;
 - d. Obtain laboratory specimens;
 - e. Restrict or ban admissions;
 - f. Restrict or ban visitation; and
 - g. Implement other measures as necessary to prevent and control infections within the facility.

Attending Physician Involvement

8. Attending physicians will be involved in decisions related to the residents under their care that involve infection control issues.