Airborne Precautions

In addition to Routine Practices



Accommodation

- Negative pressure single room, anteroom (if possible) and bathroom.
- Facilities without negative pressure rooms should consult IPC for management of suspected or confirmed cases that require Airborne Precautions.
- Airborne Precautions sign visible on entry to room.
- Room door must be shut at all times (except when entering or leaving the room).



Hand Hygiene

- Perform hand hygiene using alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and water as described in Routine Practices.
- Perform Hand Hygiene:
  - before accessing and putting on an N95 respirator;
  - after taking off an N95 respirator.
- Educate patients[1] and visitors about how and when to use hand hygiene products.



Personal Protective Equipment: N95 Respirators

- All staff and physicians require fit testing for an N95 respirator.
- All family or visitors must wear and seal-check an N95 respirator.
- Proper wearing of an N95 respirator includes:
  - putting on the respirator before entering the patient's room;
  - molding the metal bar over the nose;
  - ensuring an airtight seal on the face, over top of the nose and under the chin;
  - leaving the room and changing the respirator when it becomes moist;
  - removing the respirator after leaving the patient's room by touching elastics only;
  - not wearing respirator around the neck.

Refer to the Donning & Doffing PPE posters for details on careful removal & disposal of N95 respirators.



Patient Ambulation Outside Room and Transfer

- Patients should leave the room or bed space for essential purposes only; exceptions require IPC consultation.
- Before patients leave their room, educate or assist them to:
  - perform hand hygiene;
  - put on a procedure/surgical mask.
- Staff assisting with transport do not require an N95 respirator after leaving room unless patient is unable to wear a procedure/surgical mask.
- Notify the receiving area of need for Airborne Precautions before departure.
- Transporting staff remove the N95 respirator (if worn) and perform hand hygiene at destination.



Environmental Cleaning

- After patient discharge:
  - keep room door closed for the minimum time to allow airborne particles to settle;
  - consult Infection Prevention and Control as settle times vary, based on facility air exchanges;
  - the room may be entered for discharge cleaning after settle time has lapsed.
- If staff must enter before minimum settle time, wear an N95 respirator and door must remain closed.



Visitors

- Encourage visitors to perform hand hygiene.
- Instruct family or visitors to wear and *seal-check* an N95 respirator.
- Keep the number of visitors to a minimum.
- Door must remain closed except when entering or leaving the room.

[1]Patients are all persons who receive or have requested health care or services. The terms "client" or "resident" may also be used, subject to the health care setting.