

Isolation Precautions Summary

For all isolation patients:

- Post the appropriate sign on the patient's isolation room door.
- Keep the patient inside the isolation room unless they must leave for medical reasons.
- Use disposable or dedicated patient care equipment when possible. Clean and disinfect reusable supplies before taking them outside the room. Discard supplies that cannot be disinfected in red biohazard waste.
- Place red biohazard trash bags in all trash containers inside the isolation room.



Isolation Precautions	PPE	Visitor Instructions	Additional precautions
Contact	gloves and a gown	Wear gloves and gown if providing patient care. Clean hands after leaving.	Keep supplies used on these patients separate. Do not use them on any other patients.
Droplet	gloves and a surgical mask	Wear a surgical mask and clean hands after leaving.	In outpatient areas, put patient in an exam room immediately. If no room is available, keep 3 feet away from other patients.
Airborne	gloves and a respirator (N95 or PAPR)	Wear a surgical mask and clean hands after leaving	Place the patient in a negative-pressure room if required by SOP. Keep the door closed.

Transporting Isolation Patients

When transporting a patient on any type of isolation, call in advance to warn the receiving department that an isolation patient will be coming and what type of precautions the patient is on.

Isolation Precautions	PPE	Before Patient Leaves Room	During Transport
Contact	gloves and a gown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover wounds with clean dressings. • Put a clean gown on the patient and provide a clean blanket. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transporter carries clean gloves for use during transport. • If patient care may be needed during transport, a second staff member accompanies the patient and wears appropriate PPE. • Do not open doors or touch elevator buttons while wearing gloves.
Droplet	gloves and a surgical mask	Put a surgical mask on the patient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transporter does not need to wear PPE while the patient is wearing a surgical mask.
Airborne	gloves and a respirator (N95 or PAPR)	Put a surgical mask on the patient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport staff must wear a respirator during transport. They must also wear eye protection if required for the specific infectious disease. • Do not leave the patient in the waiting area.

Additional Resources

- Isolation – Infection Control Precautions to Prevent Transmission of Contagious Infections Policy.
- Department of Infection Prevention website – www.vumc.org/infection-prevention/isolation