

INFECTION PREVENTION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

TITLE: CONTACT/ SPORE PRECAUTIONS	DATE OF ISSUE:
APPROVED BY:	REVIEW/REVISED DATE:

Contact/ Spore Precautions Policies and Procedures

This document will illustrate how to properly create a Contact/Spore Precautions policy for your facility.

What needs to be included in a Contact/Spore Precautions policy:

1. **Purpose:** This section should describe why the Contact/Spore Precautions policy exists. For example, to establish a proper cleaning and disinfection process that ensures that sporicidal disinfectants are used for patient with these isolation precautions.
2. **Goal:** This section should describe the goals of having this policy. The goal of this policy is to provide SNF staff with a safe and healthy work environment, both for working with residents and for staff protection.
3. **Scope:** The scope is to whom this policy applies to. For example, staff, visitors, and residents.
4. **Definitions:** This section should define any terms in the following policy that may not be commonly known or that the facility administration feels are important to have explicitly defined.
5. **Procedure:** This section describes the roles and responsibilities of SNF administration and staff, the actions needed to be taken by SNF staff to be in compliance with this policy, and resources for further questions and education.

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PURPOSE:

- To prevent the transmission of particular infectious agents that produce spores and require soap and water hand hygiene, and are spread by direct and indirect contact with a resident or their environment.

DEFINITIONS:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – used to prevent or minimize exposure and to protect from potential transmission of biological agents that can be transferred from person to person by direct and indirect contact, for Contact/Spore precautions this includes gown and gloves.
- Standard Precautions (SP) –used for all resident care. They’re based on a risk assessment and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) that protect healthcare providers from infection and prevent the spread of infection from resident to resident. The use of PPE is based on the “anticipated exposure” to blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions.
- Spore –A spore is a cell that certain fungi, plants (moss, ferns), and bacteria produce. Certain bacteria make spores as a way to defend themselves. Spores have thick walls. They can resist high temperatures, humidity, and other environmental conditions.
- Contact/Spore Precautions (CSP)- used to prevent the transmission of particular infectious agents that produce spores and require soap and water hand hygiene, and are spread by direct or indirect contact with an individual’s environment .

INFECTIONS REQUIRING CONTACT/ SPORE PRECAUTIONS:

- *Candida auris*
- Norovirus
- Clostridioides difficile (CDI)
- Rotavirus

For more examples, see Type and Duration of Precautions Recommended for Selected Infections and Conditions ([CDC Appendix A](#)).

POLICY STATEMENT:

- In addition to Standard Precautions, Contact/Spore Precautions will be promptly initiated when a resident is suspected or confirmed to have a disease that is transmitted by direct or indirect contact with a resident or their environment.

PROCEDURE:

1. Assess the resident for contact/spore transmission risk. This is to be performed upon admission or when there is a change in condition associated with suspected or confirmed contact designated pathogen.
2. If suspected or confirmed, immediately notify IP and DON, place contact/spore precautions signage on the door.
3. Perform hand hygiene by washing with soap and water prior to entering the room.
4. Don PPE (gown+ gloves) outside of resident’s room or upon entry, or prior to resident care task.

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5. Doff (remove) and discard PPE (gown + gloves)
6. Perform hand hygiene by washing with soap and water.

PROCEDURE FOR ROOM PLACEMENT:

1. Single room preferred.
2. Residents with same disease or same organism may share room, please refer to Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) guidelines on cohorting.
3. Prioritize residents with conditions that may foster transmission (i.e., uncontained drainage, stool incontinence), for single room placement.

PROCEDURE ON TRANSFER WITHIN FACILITY:

1. Limit patient transport outside of the room (i.e., only when medically necessary).
2. Inform receiving department or staff that contact/spore precautions are required.
3. Cover and contain potentially infectious body fluids before transport.
4. Ensure residents wear clean clothes and wash their hands with soap and water before leaving room.
5. When possible, transport a resident in a wheelchair and cover the wheelchair with clean linen before seating the resident.
6. Wipe wheelchair with EPA- approved disinfectant wipes after transporting patient.

PROCEDURE ON INTER-FACILITY TRANSFERS:

1. If transport necessary, cover or contain potentially infectious body fluids before transport.
2. Notify the receiving facility that Contact/Spore precautions are required.
3. Use the LACDPH Infectious Organism Transfer .
4. Practice hand hygiene before and after transporting the resident.

CLEANING & DISINFECTION:

1. Staff must wear appropriate PPE (gown + gloves)).
2. Use EPA-approved sporicidal disinfectants to clean entire room and follow instructions for use (contact time).
3. Disinfect high touch surfaces often with EPA-approved sporicidal disinfectants.
4. Dedicate the use of equipment to a single patient and disinfect any shared care equipment with EPA-approved disinfectant before use on another patient.

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RESOURCES:

1. CDC Resource:
<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/precautions.html#:~:text=These%20include%3A%20hand%20hygiene%3B%20use,exposure%3B%20and%20safe%20injection%20practices.>
2. LACDPH Contact Spore Precaution Signage: [IPContactSporePrecautions.pdf \(lacounty.gov\)](#)
3. List K EPA list of disinfectants: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-k-antimicrobial-products-registered-epa-claims-against-clostridium>
4. Adherence monitoring tool contact precautions:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCO/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AdherenceMonitoringContactPrecautionsApproved101516.pdf>
5. LACDPH infectious disease transfer form:
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/FacilityTransferForm.pdf>
6. CDC Appendix A: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/appendix/type-duration-precautions.html>