

INFECTION PREVENTION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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| TITLE: DROPLET PRECAUTIONS POLICY | DATE OF ISSUE: |
| APPROVED BY: | REVIEW/REVISED DATE: |

Droplet Precautions Policies and Procedures

This document will illustrate how to properly create a Droplet Precautions policy for your facility.

What needs to be included in a Droplet Precautions policy:

1. **Purpose:** This section should describe why the Droplet Precautions policy exists.
For example, describing what PPE is necessary to care for patients with these types of 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 transmission of organisms by means of droplets and droplet nuclei that are coughed, sneezed, or breathed into the environment. Freshly contaminated articles can spread some of the organisms responsible for illnesses listed in this category.

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.
- 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.

INFECTIONS REQUIRING DROPLET PRECAUTIONS:

- Influenza
- Group A streptococcus
- Rhinovirus
- Pertussis
- Scarlet fever

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, Droplet Precautions should be promptly initiated when a patient is suspected or confirmed to have a disease transmitted in whole or in large part by large respiratory droplets.

PROCEDURE:

1. Assess resident for droplet transmission risk. This is to be performed upon admission or when there is a change in condition associated with a suspected or confirmed droplet pathogen.
2. If suspected or confirmed, notify IP and DON and place droplet precautions signage on door.
3. Perform hand hygiene prior to entering the room.
4. Don PPE outside of the resident’s room or upon entry.
5. Doff (remove) and discard PPE prior to exiting the room.

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PROCEDURE FOR ROOM PLACEMENT:

1. Place resident in a single occupancy room.
2. Consult Los Angeles County Department of Public Health guidance for cohorting, if single occupancy room is not available.
3. Door must be closed at all times, including when the resident is out of the room.

PROCEDURE ON TRANSFER WITHIN FACILITY:

1. Resident should only leave room for necessary treatment (i.e. physical therapy).
2. Resident shall wear medical-grade mask for entire duration they are outside of room, as tolerated.
3. Practice hand hygiene before and after transporting the resident.

PROCEDURE ON INTER-FACILITY TRANSFERS:

1. If transport is necessary, place medical-grade mask on the resident.
2. Notify the receiving facility that Droplet Precautions are required.
3. Use the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) Infectious Organism Transfer [form](#).
4. Practice hand hygiene before and after transporting the resident.

TERMINAL/DISCHARGE CLEANING:

1. Use standard precautions.
2. Terminal cleaning of room after patient discharge.

RESOURCES:

1. *Droplet Signage LACDPH:* <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/IPDropletPrecautions.pdf>
2. *CDC Appendix A:* <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/appendix/type-duration-precautions.html>
3. *LACDPH Influenza Page:* <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/flu.htm>
4. *LACDPH Respiratory Virus Data Page:* <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/FluData.htm>