

TITLE: <b>Transporting Residents with Infectious Diseases</b>	DATE OF ISSUE:
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## **Transporting Residents with Infectious Diseases Policies and Procedures**

This document will illustrate how to properly create a Transporting Residents with Infectious Diseases policy for your facility.

What needs to be included in a Transporting Residents with Infectious Diseases policy:

1. **Purpose:** This section should describe why the Transporting Residents with Infectious Diseases policy exists. For example, to establish a method of transporting residents within and out of the facility while mitigating spread of infectious disease.
2. **Goal:** This section should describe the goals of having this policy which is to provide Skilled Nursing Facility (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. 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 required by SNF staff to comply with this policy, and resources for further questions and education.

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PURPOSE:

- To outline appropriate procedures for transporting infectious residents within(intra) a healthcare facility or to another (inter) healthcare facility.

DEFINITIONS:

- Infectious: Diseases that are likely to spread, for example, those caused by MDRO, *C. difficile*, Scabies, Influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), COVID-19, and others. See the LAC Reportable Disease List: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/ReportableDiseaseList.pdf>.
- Transmission-Based Precautions (TBP): Contact Precautions, Droplet Precautions, and Novel Respiratory Precautions. Transmission-Based Precautions are used when the route(s) of transmission is (are) not completely interrupted using Standard Precautions alone.
- PPE: Personal protective equipment or PPE is equipment used to prevent or minimize exposure to hazards. Includes gloves, gowns, masks, and face shields.

POLICY STATEMENT:

- Appropriate TBP must be utilized before and during transportation.
- Designated staff will notify the receiving party of the resident's category of TBP.
- Designated staff will notify the transporters of the resident's category of TBP before the transport.

PROCEDURES:

- [Designated staff or nursing personnel]:
  - Intra-facility:
    - Arrange for escort.
    - Notify the receiving unit of resident's TBP status.
    - Secure the facility's path for transfer, i.e., elevator, and door closures.
    - Prepare resident for transfer: see below for specific TBP preparations.
      - If any additional items/equipment are to transfer with the resident (i.e., IV pole, chart back, etc.) wipe down with approved disinfectant per manufacturer's instructions.
    - Prepare for transfer of resident:
      - Perform hand hygiene.
      - Observe TBP.
  - Inter-facility:
    - Notify the transportation department regarding all residents on TBP who require transport. This should be done when telephoning the transportation department to request transportation.
    - Complete the inter-facility transport form.

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- Place a notice on the front of the chart indicating the type of TBP the resident requires.
- Residents on Airborne Precautions:
  - Airborne Precautions policy should include:
    - Placing of a medical-grade mask on the resident.
    - Practicing hand hygiene before and after transporting the resident.
- Residents on Contact Precautions:
  - Contact Precautions Policy should include:
    - Practicing hand hygiene before and after transporting the resident.
    - Covering wounds and contain bodily fluids.
    - Ensuring residents wear clean clothes and clean their hands before leaving their room.
    - Transporting a resident in a wheelchair or stretcher rather than in their bed, when possible.
    - Covering the wheelchair or stretcher with clean linen before seating the resident.
    - Wiping the wheelchair or stretcher with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved disinfectant wipes after transporting the resident.
- Residents on Droplet Precautions:
  - Droplet Precautions Policy should include:
    - Placing a medical-grade mask on the resident. If mask is not tolerated, consider face shield placement.
    - Practicing hand hygiene before and after transporting the resident.
- Residents on Novel Respiratory Precautions:
  - Novel Respiratory Precautions Policy should include.
    - Placing a medical-grade mask on the resident.
    - Practicing hand hygiene before and after transporting the resident.

RESOURCES:

1. LAC DPH Transmission Based Precautions signage and policies:  
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNF/index.htm>.
2. LAC DPH Infectious Organism Transfer Form:  
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/FacilityTransferForm.pdf>