

Airborne Precautions

In addition to [Routine Practices](#)



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Accommodation

- Negative pressure single room, anteroom (if possible) and bathroom.
- Facilities without negative pressure rooms should consult IPC and the [Management of Patients Requiring Airborne Isolation](#) 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 patients¹ 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 AHS [Donning](#) & [Doffing](#) PPE posters for details on careful removal & disposal of N95 respirators.

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

	<h3>Patient ambulation outside room, bed space or transfer</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients should leave the room or bed space for essential purposes only; exceptions require IPC consultation. Sites should have a clearly documented process for transport of patients on Airborne Precautions. Use pre-determined transport routes to minimize exposure for healthcare workers, other patients and DFSP/visitors. Before patients leave their room or bedspace: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess whether they can wear a procedure/surgical mask for the duration of the transport; educate or assist them to put on a procedure/surgical mask; consider alternate strategies for patients who cannot tolerate a mask, e.g., neonates, infants, toddlers; cuddle with care provider; for patients with tracheostomy, cover site with surgical mask (with ties); perform hand hygiene; put on clean clothing or hospital gown/housecoat; ensure dressings and incontinence products contain any drainage; provide an escort for the patient. Notify the receiving area of need for Airborne Precautions before departure. Transport staff should assess the risk of spreading infection and choose clean personal protective equipment (PPE), if necessary, to handle the patient during transport and at the transport destination using Infection Prevention and Control Risk Assessment (IPC RA). PPE is to be removed when patient handling is complete. Staff assisting with transport do not require an N95 respirator after leaving the room unless patient is unable to wear a procedure/surgical mask for the duration of transport.
	<h3>Environmental cleaning</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Room surfaces and equipment cleaning/disinfection is required on a daily basis or more frequently, if directed by IPC using AHS approved products and procedures. After patient discharge, transfer or airborne precautions are discontinued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> keep room door closed for the minimum time to allow airborne particles to be cleared from the air; consult IPC as air clearance times vary based on facility air exchanges; the room may be entered for discharge or transfer cleaning after air clearance time has lapsed. If staff must enter before minimum air clearance time, wear fit-tested N95 respirator and door must remain closed.
	<h3>Visitors</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage visitors to perform hand hygiene. Instruct family or visitors to wear and seal-check an N95 respirator. Airborne Isolation Precautions Family/Visitor information is an additional resource for visitors. Keep the number of visitors to a minimum. Door must remain closed except when entering or leaving the room.