

# Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Isolation Precautions for Infectious Patients

This SOP details the **isolation precautions for infectious patients**, including the identification and classification of infectious agents, implementation of contact, droplet, and airborne precautions, proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), patient room assignments, environmental cleaning protocols, visitor restrictions, and staff training. The goal is to prevent the transmission of infections within healthcare settings by ensuring strict adherence to isolation procedures and maintaining patient and staff safety.

## 1. Purpose

To outline procedures that minimize the risk of infection transmission from infectious patients by implementing appropriate isolation precautions in healthcare settings.

## 2. Scope

This SOP applies to all healthcare personnel, patients, and visitors within the facility.

## 3. Responsibilities

- Healthcare staff: Follow isolation protocols and use PPE correctly.
- Infection control team: Educate staff, monitor compliance, and update procedures as needed.
- Environmental services: Adhere to cleaning protocols for isolation areas.

## 4. Procedures

### 4.1 Identification and Classification

1. Identify patients with infectious diseases promptly via clinical assessment, laboratory testing, or clinical alerts.
2. Classify the infectious agent to determine the required isolation precaution: **Contact, Droplet, or Airborne**.

### 4.2 Isolation Precautions

Type	Indications	PPE Required	Room Assignment
Contact	MRSA, VRE, C. difficile, etc.	Gloves, gown	Single room preferred; cohorting if necessary.
Droplet	Influenza, pertussis, meningitis, etc.	Surgical mask, gloves, gown, eye protection as required	Single room preferred; spatial separation (≥1 meter) if cohorting.
Airborne	Tuberculosis, measles, varicella, COVID-19 (aerosolizing procedures), etc.	N95 respirator, gloves, gown, eye protection as required	Negative pressure room required.

### 4.3 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Don PPE prior to room entry; remove PPE and practice hand hygiene before exiting.
- Dispose of single-use PPE appropriately; clean and disinfect reusable PPE.

### 4.4 Patient Room Assignment

- Isolate in a single patient room when available.
- For airborne precautions, use negative pressure rooms and keep doors closed.
- If necessary, cohort patients with the same infection.

### 4.5 Environmental Cleaning

- Enhance cleaning of high-touch surfaces in isolation rooms.

- Disinfect equipment after each use per facility protocol.
- Follow proper procedure for waste and linen disposal.

#### **4.6 Visitor Restrictions**

- Restrict visitor access according to precaution type.
- Instruct allowed visitors on PPE use and hand hygiene.

#### **4.7 Staff Training and Compliance**

- All healthcare staff must complete training on isolation precautions annually.
- Monitor and audit compliance regularly; provide feedback and corrective action as necessary.

### **5. References**

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Isolation Precautions.
- World Health Organization (WHO) - Infection prevention and control.
- Facility Infection Control Manual.

### **6. Review and Revision**

This SOP will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary based on new guidelines, evidence, or facility requirements.