

Contact precautions are used for residents suspected or known to be infected with pathogens that spread through direct contact with an infected person or indirect contact with contaminated surfaces or equipment. Examples of infections/conditions that require contact precautions include *C. difficile*; multidrug-resistant organisms with acute diarrhea, draining wounds, or other secretions/excretions that cannot be covered or contained; norovirus; scabies; and wounds that cannot be covered or contained.

## Infection Prevention Checklist



- 1. Resident placement:** A single room is preferable. If not available, spatial separation of at least three feet and drawing the curtain between beds is important.
  - a.** Make resident placement decisions on a case-by-case basis, considering residents' other diagnoses (e.g., do they have a multidrug-resistant organism) and infection risks to other residents in the facility.
- 2. Door signage:** Place a sign outside the resident's door indicating the type of precautions and personal protective equipment to be used. Example of contact precautions sign from CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/contact-precautions-sign-p.pdf>
- 3. Personal protective equipment (PPE):** Don a gown and gloves before entering the resident's room.
- 4. Dedicate equipment:** Use dedicated or disposable equipment (e.g., stethoscope, blood pressure cuff) when possible. If equipment must be reused, clean and disinfect it before use on another person.
- 5. Focus on environmental cleaning and disinfection:** Ensure resident's room is frequently cleaned (at least daily), focusing on frequently-touched surfaces and equipment in the immediate vicinity of the resident.
- 6. Resident transport:** Limit movement of resident except for instances in which it is medically necessary.
- 7. Duration of precautions:** Consult CDC's Guideline for Isolation Precautions (<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/appendix/type-duration-precautions.html>) to determine duration of precautions and verify type of precautions needed.

## Contact Precautions: How to Share the News



1. **To the resident and those authorized to receive health information:** You (or your loved one) [may have / is confirmed to have] a germ that is spread by contact (touching a person or items in the environment that are contaminated). We will be taking extra precautions like wearing a gown and gloves, and giving you care in your room, whenever possible. We will also be washing our hands a lot and encourage you to do the same.

<Add information to instruct visitors about any facility policy regarding what PPE they need to wear when visiting a resident on contact precautions.>

2. **To healthcare workers:** This resident is [suspected/confirmed] to have [*C. difficile*, norovirus, scabies, etc.]. You must wear a gown and gloves when entering the resident's room. Dedicate care equipment like a stethoscope and blood pressure cuff to the resident whenever possible. Please also make sure we have a Contact Precautions sign posted on the resident's room door. Thanks for being consistent with these infection prevention measures!

## Additional Resources



VDH Transmission-Based Precautions webpage:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/ip/transmission-based-precautions/>