

Droplet precautions are used for residents suspected or known to be infected with pathogens such as influenza or pertussis that spread via respiratory droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, or talking.

Infection Prevention Checklist



1. **Source control:** Put a surgical mask on the resident, if appropriate.
2. **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.
3. **Door signage:** Place a sign outside the resident's door indicating the type of precautions and personal protective equipment to be used. Example of droplet precautions sign from CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/droplet-precautions-sign-P.pdf>
4. **Personal protective equipment (PPE):** Don a surgical mask before entering the resident's room. Wear eye protection if resident care activities may generate splashes or sprays of body fluids, secretions, or excretions.
5. **Resident transport:** Limit movement of resident except for instances in which it is medically necessary. If movement outside the room is necessary, instruct the resident to wear a surgical mask if it can be tolerated.
6. **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.

Droplet 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 large respiratory droplets. We will be taking extra precautions like wearing a mask and eye protection, and giving you care in your room, whenever possible. When you come out of your room, we will have you wear a mask. 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 droplet precautions.>

2. **To healthcare workers:** This resident is [suspected/confirmed] to have [influenza/pertussis/etc.]. You must wear a mask when entering the resident's room. Add other personal protective equipment like eye protection as needed per standard precautions. Please also make sure we have a Droplet 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/>

