

Appropriate resident placement is part of Standard Precautions, the infection prevention measures that should be applied in all healthcare settings, all the time. When residents are roomed appropriately, the risk of infection transmission between residents is reduced.

## Infection Prevention Checklist



1. **Basic principles of resident placement:** Make placement decisions based on the following:
  - a. Route(s) of transmission of any organisms the resident is suspected or confirmed to have
  - b. Risk factors for transmission in the infected resident (e.g., uncontained secretions, excretions, or wound drainage, unable to maintain appropriate hand hygiene)
  - c. Risk factors for adverse outcomes resulting from a healthcare-associated infection in other residents in the area or room being considered for placement (e.g., resident is immunocompromised)
  - d. Availability of single-occupancy rooms
  - e. Resident options for room sharing (e.g., cohorting residents with the same lab-confirmed infection or colonization)
    - i. Cohorting is generally not recommended if the resident:
      1. Has more than one transmissible organism
      2. Is on airborne isolation
      3. Is admitted to a facility experiencing an active outbreak
2. **Placement of residents who require Transmission-Based Precautions or Enhanced Barrier Precautions:**
  - a. In all cases: 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.
  - b. **Airborne precautions:** Private room (ideally airborne infection isolation room) with door closed.
  - c. **Contact precautions:** Private room preferred.
  - d. **Droplet precautions:** Private room preferred. If private room not available, spatial separation of at least three feet and drawing the curtain between beds is important.
  - e. **Enhanced Barrier Precautions:** Does not require a private room.

3. **Door signage:** If room is shared and one or more residents is on Transmission-Based Precautions or Enhanced Barrier Precautions, place clear signage outside the resident's door indicating the type of precautions and personal protective equipment to be used that defines which resident is on which type of precautions.

## Resident Placement: How to Share the News



*When residents in the same room are on different types of precautions:*

1. **To the resident and those authorized to receive health information:** You may notice that our staff are using different types of personal protective equipment when caring for you and your roommate. That is because each person has unique medical needs and we are adapting your care to meet those needs. We are taking extra precautions like washing our hands often and cleaning equipment and surfaces in the room to help keep everyone safe.
2. **To healthcare workers:** The residents in this room are on different types of precautions. When moving from one resident to another to provide care, it is important to wash your hands and wear the right personal protective equipment for that resident.

## Additional Resources



VDH Standard Precautions webpage:

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