

Overview of the use of standard and transmission-based precautions

Type of precautions	Examples of infectious agents	Patient placement	Gloves	Gowns	Masks	Protective eyewear	Shared equipment	Environmental cleaning	Visitors*	
Standard precautions	Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	No restrictions on patient placement.	PPE use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloves and gowns to be worn when there is potential exposure to blood or body substances Mask and protective eyewear to be worn when there is potential for blood or body substances exposure to mucosa (for e.g., attending to a patient who is coughing and sneezing). 				Single-use, single - patient use or reprocess	Clean with neutral detergent. If surfaces are contaminated with blood or body fluids, cleaning should be followed with disinfection.	Hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, cough etiquette.	
Contact	Multidrug-resistant organisms, <i>C.difficile</i> , norovirus	Single room, or cohort with same strain of infectious agent.	Yes	Yes	As per standard precautions	As per standard precautions		Neutral detergent and disinfectant are required.	As per standard precautions	
Droplet^	Norovirus, pertussis#, meningococcus	Single room with door open, or cohort with same strain of infectious agent.	As per standard precautions	As per standard precautions	Yes- use surgical mask			As per standard precautions	Neutral detergent. Use disinfectant if infectious agent is a multidrug-resistant organism or in the event of an outbreak.	Restrict visitor numbers and use same precautions as staff.
Airborne	Pulmonary TB, rubella#, measles# and chicken pox#	Single room with door closed. Use negative pressure room if available.			Yes- use particulate respirator (P2 or N95 mask)					

Notes:

Standard precautions should be used during all patient care to prevent the likelihood of transmission of infection between the patient and the healthcare worker, as well as prevent contamination of the environment.

Transmission-based precautions are used in addition to standard precautions. A combination of transmission-based precautions maybe required depending on the mode of transmission of some infectious diseases.

Patient placement: Patient placement should be informed by a risk assessment followed by prioritisation of the seriousness of the infection and any competing patient needs. For further information refer to the [Patient placement guide](#) and local infection prevention and control service.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) use:

- When used as part of **standard precautions**, PPE protects against potential exposure to blood and body substances.
- When used as part of **transmission-based precautions**, PPE is used as a barrier against specific means of transmission of infectious agents.
- Protective eyewear is part of standard precautions and serves to protect the healthcare worker from body fluid exposure to the eyes from droplets generated by patient when coughing and sneezing.

[^] Droplets can contaminate horizontal surfaces close to the source patient, and the hands of healthcare workers can become contaminated through contact with those surfaces.

***Visitors** should be given instruction about correct procedures when transmission-based precautions are applied and given appropriate resources to support them in meeting these requirements.

For vaccine-preventable diseases, where possible, only staff and visitors who have confirmed immunity (evidenced by serological immunity or vaccination history) to the specific infectious agent should enter the room. See Section 4.2.1 of the [Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare](#) for further information.

Table adapted from: Section 6.3 Use of standard and transmission-based precautions Table A2.4. Use of standard and transmission-based precautions, [Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare](#)