



Implementation of Personal Protective Equipment in Nursing Homes to Prevent Spread of Novel or Targeted Multidrug-resistant Organisms (MDROs)

Updated: July 26, 2019

Note: This Interim Guidance was updated on July 26, 2019 to clarify its current intended use as part of a Containment Response¹. Future updates are anticipated to address potential for application of this approach outside of a Containment Response.

Implementation of Contact Precautions, as described in the CDC [Guideline for Isolation Precautions](https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/) (<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/>), is perceived to create challenges for nursing homes trying to balance the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and room restriction to prevent MDRO transmission with residents' quality of life. Thus, current practice in many nursing homes is to implement Contact Precautions only when residents are infected with an MDRO and on treatment. Focusing only on residents with active infection fails to address the continued risk of transmission from residents with MDRO colonization, which can persist for long periods of time (e.g., months), and result in the silent spread of MDROs. With the need for an effective response to the detection of serious antibiotic resistance threats, there is growing evidence that current implementation of Contact Precautions in nursing homes is not adequate for prevention of MDRO transmission.

This document is intended to provide guidance for PPE use and room restriction in nursing homes for preventing transmission of novel or targeted MDROs, including as part of a public health [containment response](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/index.html>). This guidance introduces a new approach called Enhanced Barrier Precautions, which falls between Standard and Contact Precautions, and requires gown and glove use for certain residents during specific high-contact resident care activities^{2,3} that have been found to increase risk for MDRO transmission.

As of July 2019, Novel or Targeted MDROs are defined as:

- Pan-resistant organisms,
- Carbapenemase-producing enterobacteriaceae,
- Carbapenemase-producing *Pseudomonas* spp.,
- Carbapenemase-producing *Acinetobacter baumannii*, and
- *Candida auris*

This document is not intended for use in acute care or long-term acute care hospitals and does not replace existing guidance regarding use of Contact Precautions for other pathogens (e.g., *Clostridioides difficile*, norovirus) in nursing homes.

Description of Existing Precautions:

Standard Precautions are a group of infection prevention practices that apply to the care of all residents, regardless of suspected or confirmed infection or colonization status. They are based on the principle that all blood, body fluids, secretions and excretions (except sweat) may contain transmissible infectious agents. Proper selection and use of PPE, such as gowns and gloves, is one component of Standard Precautions, along with hand hygiene, safe injection practices, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, environmental cleaning and disinfection, and reprocessing of reusable medical equipment. Use of personal protective equipment is based on the staff interaction with residents and the potential for exposure to blood, body fluid, or pathogens (e.g., gloves are worn when contact with blood, body fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, or potentially contaminated surfaces or equipment are anticipated). More detail about Standard Precautions is available as part of the [Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in all Settings](https://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/recommendations/core-practices.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/recommendations/core-practices.html>).

Contact Precautions is one type of Transmission-Based Precaution that are used when pathogen transmission is not completely interrupted by Standard Precautions alone. Contact Precautions are intended to prevent transmission of infectious agents, like MDROs, that are spread by direct or indirect contact with the resident or the resident's environment.

Contact Precautions requires the use of gown and gloves on every entry into a resident's room. The resident is given dedicated equipment (e.g., stethoscope and blood pressure cuff) and is placed into a private room. When private rooms are not available, some residents (e.g., residents with the same pathogen) may be cohorted, or grouped together. Residents on Contact Precautions should be restricted to their rooms except for medically necessary care and restricted from participation in group activities.

Because Contact Precautions require room restriction, they are generally intended to be time limited and, when implemented, should include a plan for discontinuation or de-escalation.

More detail about Transmission-Based Precautions, including descriptions of Droplet Precautions and Airborne Precautions are available in the CDC Guideline for Isolation Precautions. In addition, other infections (e.g. norovirus, *Clostridioides difficile* and scabies) and conditions for which Contact Precautions are indicated are summarized in [Appendix A - Type and Duration of Precautions Recommended for Selected Infections and Conditions](https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/appendix/type-duration-precautions.html)

(<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/appendix/type-duration-precautions.html>) of the guideline.

Description of New Precautions:

Enhanced Barrier Precautions expands the use of PPE beyond situations in which exposure to blood and body fluids is anticipated, refers to the use of gown and gloves during high-contact resident care activities that provide opportunities for transfer of MDROs to staff hands and clothing^{2,3}.

Examples of high-contact resident care activities requiring gown and glove use for *Enhanced Barrier Precautions* include:

- Dressing
- Bathing/showering
- Transferring
- Providing hygiene
- Changing linens
- Changing briefs or assisting with toileting
- Device care or use: central line, urinary catheter, feeding tube, tracheostomy/ventilator
- Wound care: any skin opening requiring a dressing

Gown and gloves would not be required for resident care activities other than those listed above, unless otherwise necessary for adherence to Standard Precautions. Residents are not restricted to their rooms or limited from participation in group activities.

Table: Summary of PPE Use and Room Restriction When Caring for Residents Colonized or Infected with Novel or Targeted MDROs in Nursing Homes:

Precaution	Applies to:	PPE used for these situations:	Required PPE	Room restriction
Standard Precautions	All residents	Any potential exposure to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood • Body fluids • Mucous membranes • Non-intact skin • Potentially contaminated environmental surfaces or equipment 	Depending on anticipated exposure: gloves, gown, or face protection (change PPE before caring for another resident)	None

Implementation of Personal Protective Equipment in Nursing Homes to Prevent Spread of MDROs

Precaution	Applies to:	PPE used for these situations:	Required PPE	Room restriction
Enhanced Barrier Precautions	<p>All residents with <i>any of the following</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wounds and/or indwelling medical devices (e.g., central line, urinary catheter, feeding tube, tracheostomy/ventilator) regardless of MDRO colonization status⁴. • Infection or colonization with a novel or targeted MDRO <i>when Contact Precautions do not apply</i>. <p>Facilities may consider applying Enhanced Barrier Precautions to residents infected or colonized with other epidemiologically-important MDROs based on facility policy.</p>	<p>During high-contact resident care activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dressing • Bathing/showering • Transferring • Providing hygiene • Changing linens • Changing briefs or assisting with toileting • Device care or use: central line, urinary catheter, feeding tube, tracheostomy/ventilator • Wound care: any skin opening requiring a dressing 	<p>Gloves and gown prior to the high-contact care activity</p> <p>(change PPE before caring for another resident)</p> <p>(Face protection may also be needed if performing activity with risk of splash or spray)</p>	None
Contact Precautions	<p>All residents infected or colonized with a novel or targeted multidrug-resistant organism <i>in any of the following situations</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of acute diarrhea, draining wounds or other sites of secretions or excretions that are unable to be covered or contained • On units or in facilities where ongoing transmission is documented or suspected <p>For infections (e.g., <i>C. difficile</i>, norovirus, scabies) and other conditions where Contact Precautions is recommended see Appendix A - Type and Duration of Precautions Recommended for Selected Infections and Conditions of the CDC Guideline for Isolation Precautions</p>	Any room entry	<p>Gloves and gown</p> <p>(don before room entry, doff before room exit; change before caring for another resident)</p> <p>(Face protection may also be needed if performing activity with risk of splash or spray)</p>	Yes, except for medically necessary care

Decisions regarding the use of additional practices to prevent the spread of MDROs can be determined in conjunction with public health. These strategies might differ depending on the prevalence or incidence of the MDRO in the facility and region. Visit [State-based HAI Prevention](#)

(<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/state-based/index.html>) to find contact information for your state health department HAI program.

Implementation:

When implementing **Contact Precautions** or **Enhanced Barrier Precautions**, it is critical to ensure that staff have awareness of the facility's expectations about hand hygiene and gown/glove use, initial and refresher training, and access to appropriate supplies. To accomplish this:

- Post clear signage on the door or wall outside of the resident room indicating the type of Precautions and required PPE (e.g., gown and gloves). See [Example Signs \(Posters\)](#) (https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/transmission-based-precautions.html#anchor_1564058318)
 - For Enhanced Barrier Precautions, signage should also clearly indicate the high-contact resident care activities that require the use of gown and gloves. See [Enhanced Barrier Precautions – Example Sign \[PDF - 1 page\]](#) (<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/containment/enhanced-barrier-precautions-sign-P.pdf>)
- Make PPE, including gowns and gloves available immediately outside of the resident room
- Ensure access to alcohol-based hand rub in every resident room (ideally both inside and outside of the room)
- Position a trash can inside the resident room and near the exit for discarding PPE after removal, prior to exit of the room or before providing care for another resident in the same room
- Incorporate periodic monitoring and assessment of adherence to determine the need for additional training and education
- Provide education to residents and visitors

Note: Prevention of MDRO transmission in nursing homes requires more than just proper use of PPE and room restriction. Guidance on implementing other recommended infection prevention practices (e.g., hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, proper handling of wounds, indwelling medical devices, and resident care equipment) are available in CDC's free online course — [The Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training](#) (https://www.train.org/cdctrain/training_plan/3814). Nursing homes are encouraged to have staff review relevant modules and to use the resources provided in the training (e.g., policy and procedure templates, checklists) to assess and improve practices in their facility.

References:

1. CDC [Containment Strategy Responding to Emerging AR Threats](#) (<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/index.html>)

2. Roghmann MC, Johnson JK, Sorkin JD, Langenberg P, Lydecker A, Sorace B, Levy L and Mody L. Transmission of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) to Healthcare Worker Gowns and Gloves During Care of Nursing Home Residents *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 2015 Sep;36(9):1050-7. doi: 10.1017/ice.2015.119
3. Blanco N, Pineles L, Lydecker AD, Johnson JK, Sorkin JD, Morgan DJ; VA Gown and Glove Investigators, Roghmann MC. Transmission of Resistant Gram-Negative Bacteria to Health Care Worker Gowns and Gloves during Care of Nursing Home Residents in Veterans Affairs Community Living Centers *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2017 Sep 22;61(10). pii: e00790-17. doi: 10.1128/AAC.00790-17.
4. Mody L, Bradley SF, Galecki A, Olmsted RN, Fitzgerald JT, Kauffman CA, Saint S, Krein SL. Conceptual model for reducing infections and antimicrobial resistance in skilled nursing facilities: focusing on residents with indwelling devices. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2011 Mar 1;52(5):654-61. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciq205. Review.