



UNDERSTANDING ISOLATION

Why are isolation precautions required?

At Ross Memorial Hospital (RMH), we use additional precautions and place patients in appropriate rooms to help prevent disease-causing organisms (bacteria and viruses) from spreading to other patients, staff and visitors.

PATIENTS' MAY BE PLACED ON ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS, FOR MANY REASONS, SUCH AS:

- A history of having an antibiotic-resistant organism (ARO) such as: MRSA, CPO, or ESBL
- Laboratory results test positive
- Contact with a contagious disease or organism
- Symptoms of cough & fever
- Development of diarrhea and/or vomiting

When a patient is admitted to RMH, a series of swabs are often taken from the patient's nose, rectum and any lines, drains, incisions or wounds. Isolation precautions are put into place if any of the swabs are positive for an ARO.

Patients that are transferred directly from a hospital outside Ontario for admission to RMH are also placed on isolation precautions.



UNDERSTANDING ISOLATION

What types of precautions are taken?

There are five types of isolation precautions to be used by staff and visitors:

Airborne (white sign)

**Droplet/Contact
(green sign)**

Contact (yellow sign)

**Droplet/Contact with
N95 (purple sign)**



Isolation signs are placed at the doorway to the patient's isolation room, along with a stop sign.

This means that everyone entering the room must take the precautions. In most cases, the isolated patient is advised that they must stay in their room. No personal equipment (wheelchair or IV pole) can leave the room until it is cleaned.



UNDERSTANDING ISOLATION

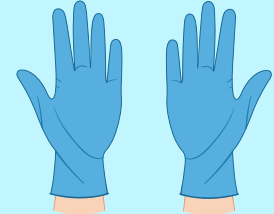
All persons entering the room of an isolated patient must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) as stated on the sign, such as:

Eye Protection: goggles or face shield.
Eyeglasses alone aren't enough protection.



Gown: tied at the neck and back.

Gloves: to fit your hand size, placing top of glove over gown cuff.



Mask: the procedure mask with eye shield is the most used mask. To put it on, spread the pleats out to cover the nose and mouth, reaching under the chin. Place the elastic strings over ears and form the mask down over the bridge of the nose. Masks with no eye shield are to be worn with additional eye protection



UNDERSTANDING ISOLATION

All persons entering the room of an isolated patient must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) as stated on the sign, such as:

N-95 mask: is worn for airborne isolation precautions. The nurse will help you find this mask, which must be always worn while inside the room. Visitors who may be at high risk for the disease may not be able to enter the room.





UNDERSTANDING ISOLATION

What special protection do I need?

Before putting on personal protective equipment (PPE), clean your hands with alcohol-based rub. Then, check the sign on the door. This will tell you what is required:

Airborne (white sign)

(Organisms that travel long distances in a fine mist through the air)

N-95 Mask Gown/Gloves/Eye protection

Droplet/Contact (green sign)

(Combination of droplets in the air and contaminated surfaces)

Gown/Gloves/Procedure Mask/Eye Protection

Contact (yellow sign)

(Organisms found on surfaces, spread by unwashed hands and contaminated equipment)

Gown/Gloves

Droplet/Contact with N95 (purple sign)

Gown, Gloves, N95 Mask/ Eye Protection

PPE Compliance Ensures a Safer Care Environment



UNDERSTANDING ISOLATION

How do I remove the protective equipment safely?

Carefully remove each item in the following order, before leaving the patient's room:

- Remove gloves carefully rolling inside out from the wrist down and place in the garbage
- Untie gown and carefully roll off the arms touching only the inside of the gown and place in the garbage
- Cleanse hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer for minimum of 15 seconds
- Remove procedure mask by pulling the strings at the sides or back of your head and place in the garbage
- If the patient is in Airborne Precautions (white sign) do not remove N95 mask until outside of the patient's room and the door is tightly shut
- Remove eye-wear
- Cleanse hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer for minimum of 15 seconds



UNDERSTANDING ISOLATION

Is there special advice for visitors?

Hand hygiene is a very important step to prevent the spread of organisms. Wash hands with soap and running water if visibly soiled. Always turn off the water taps using a paper towel to keep your hands clean. If your hands don't appear soiled, use the alcohol hand sanitizer before entering and when leaving the patient's room.

Visitors are asked **not** to enter an isolation room until they receive instruction from the nursing staff about the safe use of personal protective equipment. For visitors' safety, it is important that they know how to put on and remove equipment properly. Visitors should not take personal items into the patient's room i.e. coat, purse, food etc. Visitors should place their coats on hooks outside the room or over the hand railing. They should place purses into plastic bags before taking them into the isolation room.

Ask the nurse for further direction