

# COVID-19

# INFECTION PREVENTION READINESS

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## EARLY DETECTION OF POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS PERSONS AT INITIAL POINTS OF ENTRY TO THE HEALTHCARE FACILITY

- Offer masks to coughing patients and other symptomatic individuals upon entry to the facility.
- Include travel history as part of admission and triage protocols.
- Have a system to identify potentially infectious persons so that appropriate precautions may be applied.
- Post respiratory/hygiene cough etiquette signs at entrances.
- Provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for disposal of tissues.
- Provide hand hygiene supplies in or near waiting areas.
- Provide space in patient waiting areas and encourage individuals with symptoms of respiratory infections to sit as far away from others as possible.
- Evaluate potentially infectious persons in a private room with a closing door. If a private room is unavailable, use partitioning tools such as closed curtains to create barriers. Any healthcare worker who cares for the patient should utilize appropriate PPE: gown, gloves, N95 (or surgical mask when unavailable), and face shields when conducting aspirating procedures in conjunction with hand hygiene. Alcohol-based hand rubs are appropriate.

## TRANSMISSION-BASED PRECAUTIONS

- Observe Standard, Contact, Droplet, and Airborne Precautions.
- Stock gloves, gowns, mouth, eye, nose, and face protection equipment near point of use.
- If an airborne infection isolation room is unavailable, place the patient in a room with a closing door or closing curtain.
- Minimize patient movement. If moving a patient, place a N95 on them. Use a surgical mask for patients with breathing issues.
- Audit daily and terminal cleaning of patient rooms. Use an EPA-registered disinfectant that is effective against SARS-CoV-2.

## EDUCATION AND RESPIRATORY FIT TESTING

- Train intake personnel on identifying signs/symptoms of infection.
- Conduct Hand Hygiene and Transmission-Based Precautions in-services if they have not been conducted in the last six (6) months.
- Audit adherence to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use and Hand Hygiene.
- Plan for appropriate disposal of PPE.
- Conduct respiratory fit testing if it has not been conducted in the last twelve (12) months and for persons with concerns (e.g., weight loss, facial hair).