

## Infection Control Precautions for Syndromes

The cause of an infectious illness may not be immediately identified in some cases, yet specific infection control precautions may be necessary to prevent further spread of a communicable disease. This table lists conditions or symptoms that require empiric use of precautions until etiologic agents are confirmed or ruled out.

Clinical Syndrome/Condition	Potential Infectious Agents	Precautions
<b>Diarrhea</b> Acute diarrhea with a likely infectious cause in an incontinent or diapered patient	Enteric pathogens and food/water safety threats such as <i>Salmonella</i> species, <i>E. coli</i> 0157:H7, <i>Shigella</i> , hepatitis A, rotavirus, <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> , <i>Cryptosporidium</i> , norovirus	<b>Contact</b>
Diarrhea in an adult with a history of recent antibiotic use	<i>Clostridium difficile</i>	
<b>Hemorrhage/fever</b> Marked fever, fatigue, dizziness, bleeding under skin, internal organs, or body orifices.	Viral hemorrhagic fevers	<b>Airborne Contact*</b>
<b>Meningitis</b> Headache, vomiting, stiff neck	<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	<b>Droplet</b>
<b>Rash illnesses</b> Petechial/ecchymotic with fever	<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	<b>Droplet</b>
Vesicular or vesicular/pustular	Varicella, smallpox*, monkeypox viruses	<b>Airborne Contact</b>
<b>Respiratory illnesses</b> Cough/night sweats/fever, abnormal chest x-ray, esp. cavitation, infiltrate or fibrotic changes, or high-risk patient (foreign born, homeless, drug user, HIV+ or unknown status, previous TB or recently exposed to TB, congregate living, etc.)	Mycobacterium tuberculosis	<b>Airborne</b>
Paroxysmal or severe persistent cough during periods of pertussis activity	<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>	<b>Droplet</b>
Fever, headache, weakness, rapidly developing pneumonia	<i>Yersinia pestis</i> (pneumonic plague)	
Atypical pneumonia of unknown etiology in healthcare workers, travelers to former SARS endemic areas, close contacts of persons with atypical pneumonia when SARS cases are NOT occurring in world.	SARS coronavirus	<b>Airborne Contact*</b>
Fever and mild to severe respiratory symptoms in persons who traveled to SARS endemic areas within 10 days of symptom onset or are close contacts of suspect SARS cases.		
Influenza-like illness with onset of symptoms within 10 days of returning from areas where Avian influenza is present in poultry or humans	Avian influenza	
Respiratory infections, particularly bronchiolitis and croup, in infants and young children	Respiratory syncytial or parainfluenza virus	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Risk of Drug Resistant Microorganisms</b> History of infection or colonization with drug resistant organisms, or skin, wound, or urinary tract infection in a patient with a recent hospital or nursing home stay in a facility where multidrug-resistant organisms are prevalent	MRSA, VRE or other drug resistant bacteria	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Skin or wound infection</b> Abscess or draining wound that cannot be covered	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , group A streptococcus	<b>Contact</b>

\* Also requires eye protection for all patient contact