

# Transmission-Based Precautions Reference Guide

This reference guide may be used for common diseases to prevent transmission of infectious agents in health care settings. This is not an exhaustive list. For a more complete list of infectious diseases and indicated precautions, see [CDC Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings \(2007\); Appendix A.](#)

## Contact Precautions

The door may remain open. The patient should clean their hands and wear clean clothes or gown when leaving the room.

Infection or condition	Isolation duration
Open draining area on skin that cannot be contained	Isolate until drainage stops.
Loose stools and diarrhea Rotavirus	Isolate until resolution of diarrhea symptoms for at least 24 hours or discharge.
Head lice	Isolate until 24 hours after initiation of effective therapy.
Multidrug-Resistant Organisms (MDRO)	Hospitals and other health care settings should refer to their specific MDRO isolation policy. Nursing homes should refer to <a href="#">CDC guidance</a> for isolation recommendations.
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)	Isolate until 24 hours after resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and without respiratory symptoms.
Scabies	Isolate until 24 hours after initiation of appropriate therapy.

## Soap and Water Contact

Avoid using of shared patient equipment. Soap and water is required for hand hygiene.

Infection or condition	Isolation duration
<i>Clostridioides difficile</i> Norovirus	Remain in isolation until discharge.

## Droplet Precautions

The door may remain open. The patient should wear a mask when leaving the room.

Infection or condition	Isolation duration
Neisseria meningitidis Haemophilus influenzae meningitis	Isolate until 24 hours after initiation of effective therapy.
Pertussis	Isolate until five days after initiation of effective therapy.
Influenza	Isolate for seven days after illness onset or until 24 hours after the resolution of fever and respiratory symptoms, whichever is longer.
Mumps	Isolate until suspected disease is ruled out or if confirmed infection isolate for five days after onset of swelling.

## Contact Precaution Plus Droplet Precautions

The door may remain open. The patient should clean hands and wear a mask and clean gown when leaving the room.

Infection or condition	Isolation duration
Group A Strep skin infection	Isolate until 24 hours after initiation of effective therapy.

## Airborne Precautions

The door must remain closed. Use fit tested respirator mask or powered air purifying respiratory (PAPR) while in the room.

Infection or condition	Isolation duration
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Isolate until suspected disease is ruled out or if confirmed infection isolate until patient is improving after initiation of effective therapy. Refer to <a href="#">Appendix A</a> for more information on duration.
Measles	Isolate until suspected disease is ruled out or if confirmed infection isolate for four days after onset of rash. Refer to <a href="#">Appendix A</a> for more information on duration.

## Contact Precautions Plus Airborne Precautions

The room must be under negative pressure if available and the door must remain closed. Limit patient movement. The patient should wear mask when leaving room.

Infection or condition	Isolation duration
Disseminated shingles	Isolate until lesions are dry and crusted.
Chickenpox	Isolate until lesions are dry and crusted.
COVID-19	Refer to health care facility policy and current <a href="#">CDC guidance</a> .

### Implement other infection prevention best practices to prevent transmission of infectious agents.

- Use standard precautions at all times.
- Use proper hand hygiene.
- Ensure adequate cleaning and disinfection with an [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-registered](#) product appropriate for the infectious agent.
- Follow wet contact time for approved disinfectants.

**Contact the Wisconsin Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention Program at [DHSWIHAIPreventionProgram@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSWIHAIPreventionProgram@dhs.wisconsin.gov) or your [regional infection preventionist](#) for additional assistance.**