Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against infectious materials.

PPE should be used for known and/or suspected communicable disease.

Isolation Procedures aim to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases to patients, visitors, and associates. Isolation Procedures also ensure that associates don’t take communicable diseases home to loved ones.

The nurse in charge is responsible for ensuring that isolation is initiated and maintained according to hospital policy. He/She is also responsible for contacting the Infection Control practitioner regarding any questions or problems concerning the isolation of a patient.

No physician order is required for isolation precautions.

Don’t be afraid to isolate a patient if you suspect a communicable disease. Don’t wait to take action.

Not following isolation procedures or using the proper PPE can be harmful to patients, visitors, associates, and volunteers.

Help protect your environmental services (EVS) friends- Isolation carts and signs need to stay at patients room even after discharge until EVS cleans the room.

Examples of PPE:
- Gloves – protect hands
- Gown – protect skin or clothing
- Face shield – Protect face, mouth, nose and eyes
- Face mask or respirator- protect mouth/nose and the respiratory tract from airborne infections agents
- Goggles – protect eyes
- Shoe covers – protects tracking of infectious materials
- Scrubs/Uniforms are not PPE.

If clothes/scrubs become soiled follow the steps below:
- Contact supervisor for instructions
- Put soiled clothes into plastic bag
- Clean any exposed or soiled areas of body
- Change into facility provided scrubs
- Soiled clothes will be laundered by facility-do not take home

Policy review, click here:

Standard precautions are the basic level of infection control that should be used in care of all patients all the time.

- Prevent the spread of infections
- Treat all body fluids as if infected
  - Blood
  - Urine
  - Feces
  - Vomit
  - Semen/Vaginal secretions
  - All body fluids except sweat
- Other areas to consider standard precautions
  - Non-intact skin
  - Mucous Membranes
  - Potentially contaminated inanimate objects

Using Standard Precautions
- Activities that involve splashes or spray-use face and eye protection
- Use gowns to protect skin and clothes
- Gown, goggles, and gloves may be used as standard precautions
- All associates are expected to follow standard precautions as mandated by OSHA

Click here to review policy PCM 008 – Standard Precautions.
Scabies
- Scabies spread by prolonged skin-to-skin contact with a person who has scabies. Scabies can sometimes be spread by contact with items such as clothing, bedding, or towels that have been used by a person with scabies, but such spread is very uncommon unless the infested person has crusted scabies.
- Without effective treatment, scabies mites life cycle can continue indefinitely.
- Scabies mites are resistant to soap and hot water and cannot be scrubbed out of skin.
- Scabies cannot fly or jump, so they can only move by direct and prolonged physical contact.
- Severe and relentless itching is the main symptom of scabies.
  - Scabies mites burrow into the upper layer of skin where they lay eggs
  - Infected persons can transmit even without symptoms
  - Can be prevented with proper PPE

Lice
- Transmitted by direct contact or close personal contact.
- Lice move by crawling. They do not hop or jump.
  - Can be prevented with proper PPE.
  - Lice can be found in hair/hair, eyebrows, and eyelashes.

Bed Bugs
- Exposed at hiding.
- Bed bugs are travelers—they hitch rides on backpacks, luggage, linens, carpet, boxes and shoes.
- If you suspect seeing a bed bug follow the steps below:
  - Immediately place patient in isolation
  - Attempt to catch a bug and place in a specimen cup
  - EVS can identify if insect is a bed bug
  - Can be prevented with proper PPE.
  - Can be prevented with proper room management and cleaning.
  - Check out the policies on Bed Bugs.
  - Hospital: [link](http://policy.wfhealthcare.org/PDF%20Policy/PCM%200006-doc.pdf\#search=bed%20bugs)
  - Home Health: [link](http://policy.wfhealthcare.org/PDF%20Policy/HH324-doc.pdf\#search=bed%20bugs)

Respiratory Hygiene is to prevent the transmission of all respiratory infections in the healthcare setting. Hygiene etiquette involves practices that prevent the spread of illness and disease. A critical time to practice good hygiene etiquette is when you are sick, especially when coughing or sneezing. Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette should be applied as a standard infection control precaution at all times.

Respiratory hygiene is practiced by:
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Use tissue to contain respiratory secretion and promptly dispose of them in the nearest waste receptacle
- Using a mask if patient has a productive cough
- Offer masks to persons who are coughing
- Cough into elbow
- Perform hand hygiene after cough or sneeze
- Wear a mask within 3-6 feet of a patient with a productive cough

Regular practice of respiratory hygiene can prevent the spread of:
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- Mumps
- Influenza
- Measles
- Bacterial/viral infections

Check out what the CDC says about Respiratory Hygiene: [link](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphygiene.htm)