



# Proposed Update to Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings (2007), 'Protective Environment' Recommendation

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# Agenda

- Background/Rationale for Update
- Description
- Discussion + Vote

# Background

- Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings (2007) is currently being updated by HICPAC workgroup
- May 2023
  - End of the Public Health Emergency prompting medical centers to update policies for use of source control devices (i.e., masking)
  - Concerns expressed about one recommendation in 'VI. Protective Environment'

# VI. Protective Environment

## VI.F. Use of Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions in a Protective Environment.

**VI.F.1.** Use Standard Precautions as recommended for all patient interactions. *Category IA*

**VI.F.2.** Implement Droplet and Contact Precautions as recommended for diseases listed in Appendix A. Transmission-Based precautions for viral infections may need to be prolonged because of the patient's immunocompromised state and prolonged shedding of viruses.<sup>930, 1010, 928, 932, 1011</sup> *Category IB*

**VI.F.3.** Barrier precautions, (e.g., masks, gowns, gloves) are not required for healthcare personnel in the absence of suspected or confirmed infection in the patient or if they are not indicated according to Standard Precautions.<sup>15</sup>  
*Category II*

**VI.F.4.** Implement Airborne Precautions for patients who require a Protective Environment room and who also have an airborne infectious disease (e.g., pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis, acute varicella-zoster). *Category IA*

**VI.F.4.a.** Ensure that the Protective Environment is designed to maintain positive pressure.<sup>13</sup> *Category IB*

**VI.F.4.b.** Use an anteroom to further support the appropriate air-balance relative to the corridor and the Protective Environment; provide independent exhaust of contaminated air to the outside or place a HEPA filter in the exhaust duct if the return air must be recirculated.<sup>13, 1041</sup> *Category IB*

**VI.F.4.c.** If an anteroom is not available, place the patient in an AIIR and use portable, industrial-grade HEPA filters in the room to enhance filtration of spores.<sup>1042</sup> *Category II*

# 2007 Isolation Guidelines, Appendix A, Table 5

Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings (2007)

## Appendix A: Table 5.

(Adapted from MMWR 2003; 52 [RR-10])

### I. Patients: allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) only

- Maintain in PE room except for required diagnostic or therapeutic procedures that cannot be performed in the room, e.g., radiology, operating room
- Respiratory protection e.g., N95 respirator, for the patient when leaving PE during periods of construction

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### II. Standard and Expanded Precautions

- Hand hygiene observed before and after patient contact
- Gown, gloves, mask NOT required for HCWs or visitors for routine entry into the room
- Use of gown, gloves, mask by HCWs and visitors according to Standard Precautions and as indicated for suspected or proven infections for which Transmission-Based Precautions are recommended

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### III. Engineering

- Central or point-of-use HEPA (99.97% efficiency) filters capable of removing particles 0.3  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter for supply (incoming) air

Disclaimer: The findings and conclusions herein are draft and have not been formally disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.

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# Background continued

- Recommendation interpreted as indicating that masking for source control in a protective environment is not appropriate
  - Includes periods of increased respiratory virus transmission in the area
  - Could apply to other areas in healthcare, outside of a protected environment

# Proposed update and discussion

- Proposed option: Delete the recommendation and Appendix A statement, pending further section review by the workgroup
  - Recommendation VI.F.3.: “Barrier precautions, (e.g., masks, gowns, gloves) are not required for healthcare personnel in the absence of suspected or confirmed infection in the patient or if they are not indicated according to Standard Precautions.”
  - Appendix A, Table 5: “Gown, gloves, mask NOT required for HCWs or visitors for routine entry into the room”
- Unintended consequences from deleting this recommendation?

# Amended Vote

- Proposed option: Modify the recommendation to improve clarity
  - Recommendation VI.F.3.: "Barrier precautions (e.g., masks, gowns, gloves) are not required for healthcare personnel in the absence of suspected or confirmed infection in the patient or if they are not indicated according to Standard Precautions."
  - Proposed update: Barrier precautions (e.g., masks, gowns, gloves) are not required for healthcare personnel in the absence of suspected or confirmed infection unless indicated according to Standard Precautions or if recommended for source control (e.g., mask) for any individual entering the protective environment room.



## Amended Vote continued

- Appendix A, Table 5: “Gown, gloves, mask NOT required for HCWs or visitors for routine entry into the room”
- Proposed update: Barrier precautions (e.g., masks, gowns, gloves) are not required for healthcare personnel in the absence of suspected or confirmed infection unless indicated according to Standard Precautions or if recommended for source control (e.g., mask) for any individual entering the protective environment room.