

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Standard Precautions

PPE includes gloves, gowns, respiratory protection (surgical face mask), and eye protection (goggles or face shield).

Wear appropriate PPE based on risk assessment:

- **Before providing care**, evaluate if the patient is on Transmission-Based Isolation Precautions.
 - Before performing procedures or providing personal care, assess the risk for exposure to blood, body fluids (except sweat), secretions, excretions, non-intact skin, and mucous membranes.
1. Wear **gloves** if there is a potential contact with blood, body fluids or items contaminated with blood or body fluids.
Examples: wound care, colostomy care, personal care, perineal care, catheterization, venipuncture, etc.
 2. Wear **gown or apron** if there is a potential for contamination of skin or clothing
Examples: wound irrigation, colostomy care
 3. Wear **respiratory protection** (surgical face mask) when providing routine patient care in the home.
 4. Wear **eye protection** (goggles or face shield) if there is a potential for splash or spray of blood or body fluids to eyes or face.
Examples: wound irrigation



A disposable face mask is required for all disciplines at all patient visits; except in cases where transmission-based precautions require additional protection.

Transmission-based precautions must be practiced in addition to Standard Precautions. Follow the Plan of Care.

CONTACT PRECAUTIONS	Equipment
<p>Pathogens transmitted by direct contact (touching patient) or indirect contact (touching items or surfaces contaminated by patient).</p> <p><i>Examples: C. difficile (C.diff), Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Vancomycin-resistant enterococcus (VRE), Carbapenem-resistant enterobacteriae (CRE)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloves • Gowns • Patient-dedicated equipment (MRSA kit, left in patient’s home) <p>Optional: Plastic bag or lined trash can to dispose of contaminated items</p>
DROPLET PRECAUTIONS	Equipment
<p>Prevent transmission of pathogens in droplets projected from the respiratory tract during coughing, sneezing, or talking.</p> <p><i>Examples: Influenza, Meningitis B., pertussis.</i></p> <p>Social distance: 6 feet (droplets usually travel distances up to 6 feet, with most droplets land on surfaces within 3 feet).</p> <p>Many pathogens transmitted by droplets can also be transmitted by contact route of infection requiring both Droplet and Contact Precautions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical face mask • Eye protection: goggles, face shield • Source Control* (surgical mask or cloth face covering) for patient if able to tolerate and if available. If not available, ask patient to cover cough or sneezes with disposable tissue, discard after use, and perform hand hygiene. • Gloves • Gowns <p>Optional: Plastic bag or lined trash can to dispose of contaminated items</p>

DROPLET: AEROSOL GENERATING PROCEDURES	Equipment
<p>Pathogens transmitted via droplet route can become aerosolized (suspended in the air or airborne) for a limited time during care tasks producing cough.</p> <p><i>e.g. COVID-19 illness</i></p> <p><i>Examples: Nebulizer treatments, suctioning, tracheostomy care, ventilator treatments (BIPAP, CPAP)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N95 Respirator • Eye protection: goggles or face shield • Gloves • Gowns • Source Control* (surgical mask or cloth face covering) for patient before and after Aerosol Generating Procedure if able to tolerate and if available. If not available, ask patient to cover cough or sneezes with disposable tissue, discard after use, and perform hand hygiene. • Patient-dedicated equipment left in patient's home (e.g. COVID-19 kit) • Plastic bag to dispose of contaminated items

AIRBORNE PRECAUTIONS	Equipment
<p>Pathogens expelled from the respiratory tract and stay suspended in the air over time and long distances.</p> <p><i>Examples: Pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis, measles, chickenpox.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N95 Respirator • Gloves • Gowns • Optional: Plastic bag or lined trash can to dispose of contaminated items

For patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 illness, staff should follow VNS Health COVID-19 Protocols. Contact your supervisor for more information.