Hand Hygiene:

Good hand hygiene is the **single most important** method of preventing the spread of microorganisms that can make us sick. Hand hygiene should be performed by patients and visitors using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water:

1. **Before Entering a Room**
   - **Why:** To protect you and the patient and the patient’s environment from harmful germs carried on your hands

2. **After Using the Washroom or Body Fluid Exposure**
   - **Why:** To protect yourself and the healthcare environment from harmful germs

3. **Before Eating or Assisting with Care**
   - **Why:** To protect you and the patient and the patient’s environment from harmful germs carried on your hands

4. **After Leaving the Room**
   - **Why:** To protect yourself and the healthcare environment from harmful germs

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Areas Most Often Missed During Hand Washing

- **Most Often Missed**
- **Often Missed**
- **Less Often Missed**

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Taylor, L., Nursing times 74, 54 (1978)
Curtain Isolation and Cohorting

The infection control team evaluates the risk of transmission for all patients requiring additional precautions. You may see patients in “Curtain Isolation”, meaning isolation in a semi-private room, when the risk of disease transmission is very low. You may also see “Cohorting” of patients with the same microbes/condition together, where both patients will remain in isolation. These decisions are carefully made to ensure patient safety. Please speak with your nurse if you have any additional questions.

Isolation and Personal Protective Equipment

Additional precautions, or “Isolation” are used when a patient is known or suspected to have an infectious disease. Additional precautions include required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and patient to protect staff, visitors, and other patients.

Visitors: Please seek instructions from the Nurse prior to visiting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Precaution</th>
<th>PPE Required</th>
<th>Additional Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT PRECAUTIONS</td>
<td>Gown and Gloves</td>
<td>Patients with the same reason for isolation may be placed together in the same room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT PLUS PRECAUTIONS</td>
<td>Gown and Gloves</td>
<td>Room will be cleaned with bleach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DROPLET CONTACT PRECAUTIONS</td>
<td>Mask, Eye protection, Gown, Gloves</td>
<td>Patients must wear mask whenever leaving the room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DROPLET CONTACT PLUS PRECAUTIONS</td>
<td>Mask, Eye protection, Gown, Gloves</td>
<td>Patients must wear mask whenever leaving room. Room will be cleaned with bleach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIRBORNE PRECAUTIONS</td>
<td>Mask</td>
<td>Only household members should visit and must be masked. Patients may not leave room unless for medical procedure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIRBORNE CONTACT PRECAUTIONS</td>
<td>Mask, Gown, Gloves</td>
<td>Only household members should visit and must wear protective gear. Patients may not leave room unless for medical procedure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIRBORNE + DROPLET CONTACT PRECAUTIONS</td>
<td>Mask, Eye protection, Gown, Gloves</td>
<td>Only household members should visit and must wear protective gear. Patients may not leave room unless for medical procedure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>