

The Infection Prevention Team updated the Transmission-Based Precautions Policy and redesigned the isolation precaution signs displayed outside patient rooms.

All isolation precaution signs are now double-sided. One side lists the required personal protective equipment (PPE) to be worn when entering the room. The other side includes guidance on:

- Common infectious diseases requiring isolation precautions
- Cleaning and disinfecting patient care equipment
- Cohorting patients in shared rooms
- Managing patient transport

EXAMPLE FRONT SIDE



EXAMPLE BACK SIDE

Most Common Examples* of Infectious Diseases Requiring Contact Precautions

- Multi-Drug-Resistant Organism (MDROs) infections MRSA, VRE, VISA, VRSA
- Scabies
- Lice
- Major abscesses that can not be covered/contained.
- Bed bugs (Bed bugs are not associated with infectious transmission. Maintain contact precautions until belongings are appropriately contained and EVS has been notified).

**This list does not include all infections that require Contact Precautions. See Appendix A: Type and Duration of Precautions on the HUB for the full list.*

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Gown and gloves

Patient Care Equipment

- Reusable patient care equipment must be cleaned and disinfected with a hospital-approved disinfectant between patients.
- Use disposable or dedicated equipment whenever possible.
- Supplies in the room must be kept to a minimum.

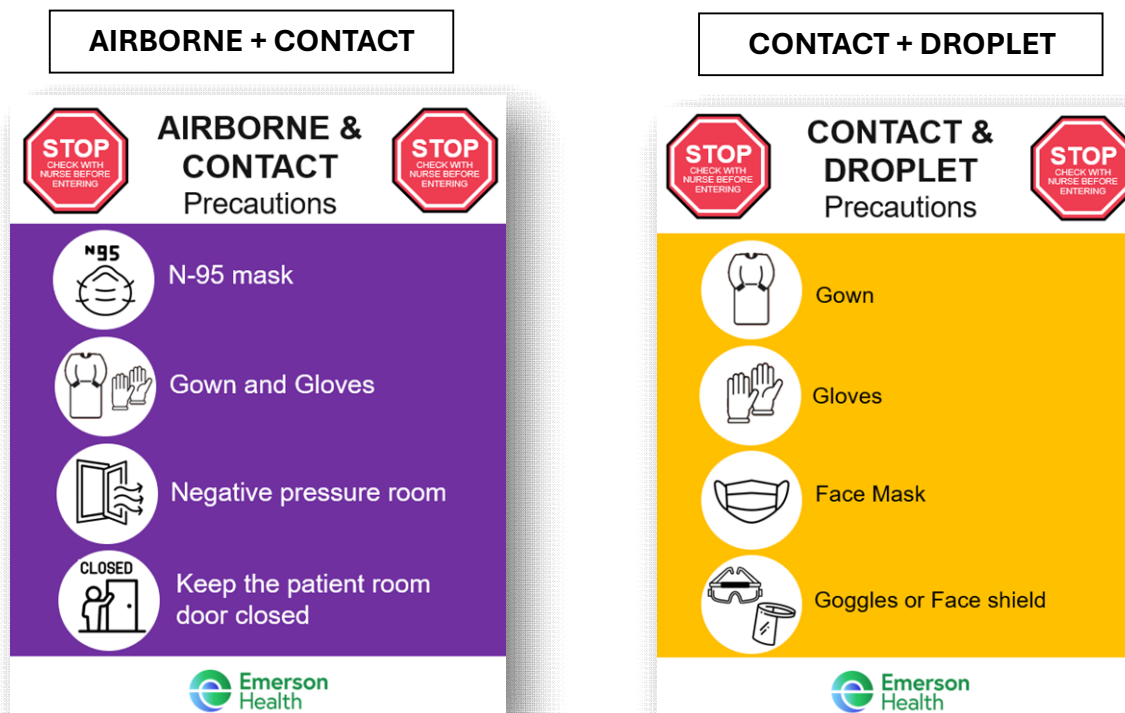
Shared Room (Cohorting) and Room Placement

- Shared rooms (Cohorting) may be permitted in circumstances where both patients are colonized or infected with the same organism. Consult infectious disease or infection control for guidance as needed.
- A private room is required if room sharing is not feasible or appropriate.

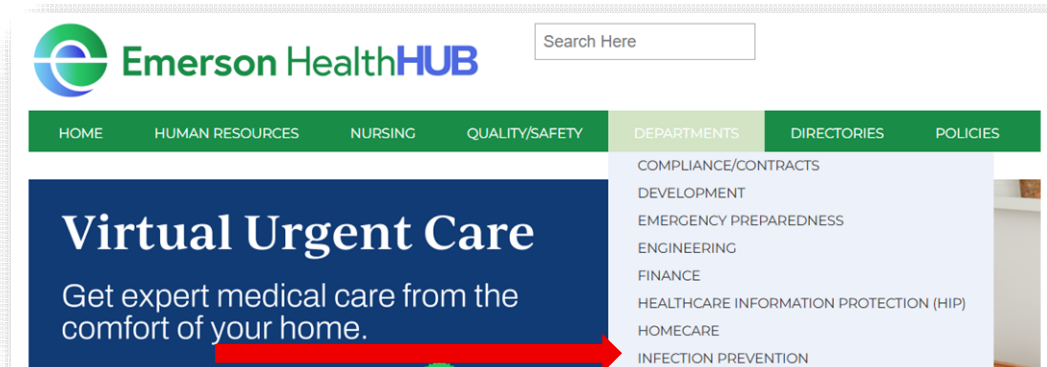
Patient Transport

- Limit patient transport or movement outside the patient's room.
- Cover or contain the infected or colonized area of the patient's body.
- If transport is required, the patient must wear a clean hospital gown with clean linens over the patient.

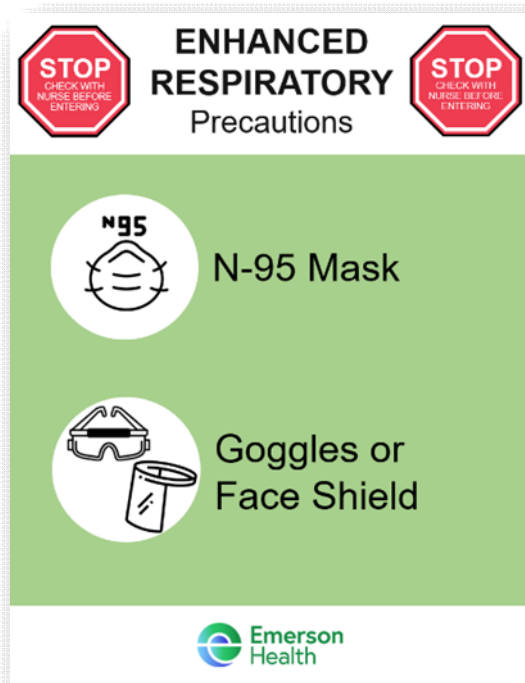
Additionally, to reduce the number of signs displayed outside patient rooms, Infection Prevention also created two **NEW** signs that cover two types of isolation precautions each:



Infection Prevention developed [Appendix A: Type and Duration of Precautions for Infectious Diseases](#). For a shorter version with the most commonly encountered infectious diseases requiring isolation precautions, use the [Precaution Quick View](#) under the “Infection Prevention Resources” tab on the [Infection Prevention HUB page](#). Access it from the HUB homepage under “Departments” by selecting “Infection Prevention”.



Effective May 18, 2026, and aligned with other Massachusetts hospitals, Emerson has updated the PPE requirements for staff entering patient rooms when the patient has suspected or confirmed COVID-19. These patients will remain on Enhanced Respiratory Isolation, but staff will no longer be required to wear a gown and gloves. The updated sign is below.



Most Common Examples* of Infectious Diseases Requiring Enhanced Respiratory Precautions

- COVID-19
- Mpox (in conjunction with contact precautions), contact infection control for guidance.

**This list does not include all infections that require Enhanced Respiratory Precautions. See Appendix A: Type and Duration of Precautions on the HUB for the full list*

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- N-95 respirator or Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR)
- Eye protection: goggles, face shield

Patient Care Equipment

- Reusable patient care equipment must be cleaned and disinfected with a hospital-approved disinfectant between patients.
- Use disposable or dedicated equipment whenever possible.
- Supplies in the room must be kept to a minimum.

Shared Room (Cohorting) and Room Placement

- Shared rooms (Cohorting) may be permitted with confirmed infection where both patients are in comparable stages of disease (i.e., applies to COVID-19 only). Consult Infectious diseases or infection control for guidance as needed.
- A private room is required if room sharing is not feasible or appropriate.

Patient Transport

- Limit patient transport or movement outside the patient's room.
- If transport is required, the patient must wear a hospital-issued face mask if they are able to tolerate it.

Infection Prevention will distribute signs to hospital units the week of May 18, 2026. Please reach out to Infection Prevention with questions at extension 8959.