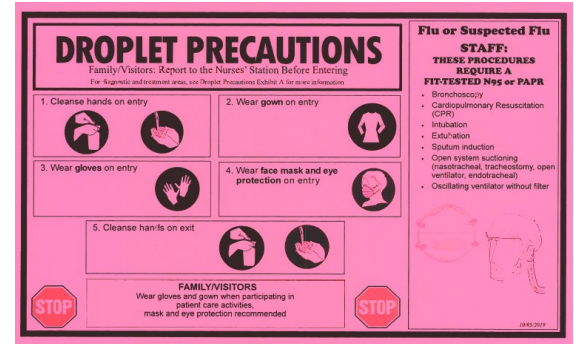


Droplet Precautions: General Information

What are Droplet Precautions?

Droplet Precautions are a way to protect other patients, family, visitors and staff from coming into contact with coughed or sneezed droplets from people who have certain respiratory diseases. These droplets are spread by hand-to-hand contact, close contact with people who are coughing or sneezing, or hand contact with contaminated items. There will be a pink sign on the door saying that you are in Droplet Precautions.

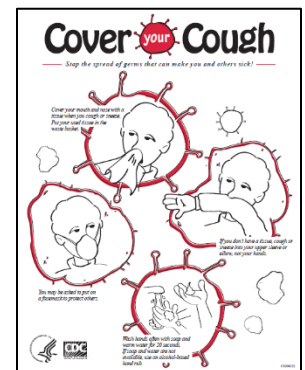


Why are staff wearing masks, gloves and gowns?

Staff going into your room will wear gloves, gown, mask, and eye protection. This is to protect themselves from getting your infection and to prevent the spread of germs to other patients, because they take care of several patients each day. They will throw the gloves, gown, mask, and eye protection away and clean their hands before leaving your room.

What does “Cover your Cough” mean?

“Cover your Cough” means that you should wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms and that you should cough or sneeze into a tissue or into your arm. After coughing or sneezing, you should clean your hands. This is a simple way for everyone to prevent the spread of certain respiratory diseases.







When will Droplet Precautions end?

You will need to stay in Droplet Precautions until the doctor says that there is no longer a risk of spreading germs to other people.

Instructions for Patients:

Can I leave my room?

As long as your doctor says that you may have active disease, you need to stay in your room. If you must leave your room for some reason, ask your nurse first. If you do leave your room you must:

Wear clean clothing and a mask	Cover your cough or sneeze	Clean your hands	Have your nurse or aide wipe down any medical devices that you will take with you
			

Where can I go outside of my room?

If you are allowed to leave your room, you are permitted to go to most public areas of the hospital except for the following areas. If there are other areas not listed below, ask your nurse if it is ok.

Cafeteria	Family Lounges	Child life activity areas including: school and the Michigan GameDay Experience	Visiting other patients or their visitors
Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted

Instructions for Family and Visitors:

Can my family and visitors visit me?

If your family or visitors have symptoms of a respiratory infection they will not be allowed to visit. This is to prevent them from infecting other people in the hospital. Your medical team can make an exception for sick family or visitors to visit you if there are special circumstances. Ask your nurse if you are unsure whether your family or visitors can visit you.

Do my family and visitors need to wear mask, gloves or gowns?

It is recommended that your family and visitors wear a gown and gloves if they will be participating in patient care activities (such as bathing, wound care, trach care, etc.) and that they wear a mask and eye protection when they are within 3 feet of you. Wearing a mask will protect them from getting sick. Wearing a gown and gloves will reduce the spread of germs out of the room on their clothing. If your family or visitor develops respiratory symptoms while visiting they should put on a mask and notify your nurse immediately.

Where can my family and visitors go outside of my room?

Your family and visitors must remember to clean their hands, with soap and water or the waterless hand rub, when they leave your room. They are permitted to go to most public areas of the hospital, except the following areas:

- Nutrition Room
- Child Life Activity Areas including: School and the Michigan GameDay Experience
- Visiting other patients or their visitors

Thank you for your help with this. It will help keep other people from getting sick.

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by Michigan Medicine for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by Michigan Medicine and for which Michigan Medicine does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Infection Prevention & Epidemiology

Patient Education by [Michigan Medicine](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License](#). Last Revised 10/2019