

Tips for Keeping Our Community Healthy

With an increase of visitors to our communities comes an increased risk of communicable diseases (remember the recent measles outbreaks?). Unfortunately, sometimes these can also occur during our traditional influenza season.

Please keep the following reminders from Infection Control and Prevention in mind, and share them with your fellow healthcare professionals:

- Please report any unusual number of patients presenting with similar symptoms, unusual presentations of symptoms and/or unexplained cases of infectious disease in healthy individuals to the Infection Control and Prevention office at your facility as soon as possible.
- Document in patient records the time, date and type of isolation initiated. Post the appropriate isolation precaution signage and set out the necessary personal protection equipment required.
- If patients or visitors in a waiting area are coughing and sneezing, please provide them with surgical paper masks.
- All patients with concurrent fever and rash should be isolated in a negative pressure room immediately. Provide them with surgical paper masks until they are in a negative pressure room, and make certain the environmental controls for these rooms are operating correctly. Keep the doors to negative pressure rooms closed at all times.
- To determine the type of isolation and personal protective equipment required, please use the online table, "Clinical Syndromes or Conditions Empiric Warranting Additional Empiric Precautions to Prevent Transmission of Epidemiological Important Pathogens Pending Confirmation of Diagnosis." This table is available by visiting the Infection Control page on CAROL, under "Departments," or <http://home.carondelet.org/InfectionControl/ICManual.htm>
- Clean all shared equipment after each patient use (e.g., vital sign equipment, stethoscopes, etc).
- Perform hand hygiene before and after patient contact or contact with the patient's environment, before and after gloving.