	<b>The Johns Hopkins Hospital</b> <b>INTERDISCIPLINARY CLINICAL PRACTICE MANUAL</b>	<i>Policy Number</i> <b>IFC-019</b>
	<i>Subject</i> <b>Droplet Precautions</b>	<i>Effective Date</i> 10/01
		<i>Page</i> 1 of 3
		<i>Supersedes</i> 7/98

**PATIENT CARE OBJECTIVES**

- Droplet Precautions are used for patients known or suspected to be infected with certain respiratory microorganisms transmitted by large particle droplets. Large particle droplets can be generated by the patient when coughing, sneezing, talking, and undergoing procedures involving the respiratory tract. These microorganisms can be acquired by direct contact, by contact with droplets over short distances (3-6 feet), and by contact with articles recently contaminated with respiratory secretions. Refer to the Isolation/Precautions Policy for diseases requiring Droplet Precautions.
- Droplet Precautions shall be in addition to Standard Precautions.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

JHH Employee - Must follow the requirements of Droplet Precautions.

Supervisor/ Managers of all Departments - Ensure employee compliance with this policy.

Department of Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control - Shall place patients on Droplet Precautions and assist with measures to discontinue isolation.

Nurse/Physician - Shall place patients on Droplet Precautions.


**PROCEDURES**

Patient Placement

- A private room is preferred. A private room is required for patients with pertussis or diphtheria.
- Generally, patients infected with the same organism may share a room. Consult Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control (HEIC) for advice on cohorting patients.

Sign, Tape, Isolation Cart

- Place Droplet Precautions sign on the door to the room.
- Place Droplet Precautions tape on the front of the chart.
- Place isolation cart outside door to room (if no anteroom).

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	<b>INTERDISCIPLINARY CLINICAL PRACTICE MANUAL</b>	<i>Effective Date</i>	10/01
	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page</i>	2 of 3
	<b>Droplet Precautions</b>	<i>Supersedes</i>	7/98

Attire

- Masks are needed for close contact (3-6 feet).
- Gowns and gloves are indicated for direct physical contact with the patient, such as transferring from a bed to a stretcher, or holding infants and young children.

Transportation of Patient

- The patient must wear a standard surgical mask when being transported.
- Children are not allowed in the playroom.

Visitors

- Visitors are expected to follow all components of Droplet Precautions.

**SPONSOR**

- Medical Care Evaluation Committee


**DEVELOPERS**

- Director of Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control Department

**COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION**

- This policy will be distributed to all manual holders of the Interdisciplinary Practice Manual.

<b>REVIEW CYCLE</b>	Three (3) years	<b>MEDICAL BOARD</b>	Approval Date: 10/01 Effective Date: 10/01
<b>VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEDICAL AFFAIRS</b>  <hr/> Date:			

	The Johns Hopkins Hospital	<i>Policy Number</i>	<b>IFC-019</b>
	INTERDISCIPLINARY CLINICAL PRACTICE MANUAL	<i>Effective Date</i>	
	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page</i>	3 of 3
	Droplet Precautions	<i>Supersedes</i>	7/98

# DROPLET PRECAUTIONS

<b>PRIVATE ROOM:</b>	<b>PREFERRED</b>
<b>GLOVES:</b>	<b>FOR CONTACT WITH PATIENT</b>
<b>MASK:</b>	<b>WHEN AT BEDSIDE OF PATIENT</b>
<b>GOWN:</b>	<b>FOR CONTACT WITH PATIENT</b>
<b>CART:</b>	<b>FOR SUPPLIES</b>
<b>Wash hands after:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact with patient</li> <li>• Contact with contaminated articles</li> <li>• Glove removal</li> </ul>

## PRACTICE STANDARD PRECAUTIONS FOR ALL PATIENTS

<b>Patient Name (last name, first initial)</b> _____
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**VISITORS STOP AT NURSES' STATION BEFORE ENTERING**