



DOH 420-438 October 2022

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POLICY: Prevention and Control of the Transmission of Pathogens of Epidemiological Concern	
POLICY OWNER:	APPROVED BY:
REVIEWED BY:	LAST UPDATE or REVIEW:
DATE ISSUED:	REVIEW DUE DATE:

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a comprehensive program to ensure the prevention of transmission of pathogens that are of epidemiological concern.

Pathogens of Epidemiological Concern (PEC) are infectious agents that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- 1) A propensity for transmission within health care facilities, and the occurrence of temporal or geographic clusters.
- 2) Antimicrobial resistance implications.
- 3) Association of serious clinical disease or increased mortality.
- 4) A newly discovered or reemerging pathogen.

The interventions included in this policy are guided by the Risk Assessment found in *(Program Risk Assessment, for example)*

Prevention and Control of Transmission, by Pathogen.

- A. XYZ organism
 - a. Surveillance and identification: *surveillance of clinical microbiology results as part of routine clinical care, or active surveillance cultures (ASC)?*
 - b. Transmission-based precautions: *refer to appropriate isolation policy, any additional measures outside of that policy including PPE use, patient placement, transporting of patient, visitors, and de-isolation process?*
 - c. Exposure mitigation: *contact investigation protocol, quarantine protocol, prophylaxis, notifications, etc?*
 - d. Environmental measures: *Special cleaning or disinfection, equipment handling, etc., is an environmental investigation warranted for this pathogen?*
 - e. Special population considerations: *NICU, behavioral health, etc.*

- f. Public health reporting criteria:
 - g. Patient and visitor education:
 - h. Staff education and training:
- B. *Consider grouping pathogens with the same protocol (i.e., VRE, ESBL, or Tier 1, 2,3, etc.)*

Refer to appropriate hospital policies, procedures, protocols, as indicated, for example:

For additional information on outbreak procedures, refer to the *Policy: Outbreak Investigations*.

For discontinuation of transmission-based precautions, refer to *Policy: Discontinuation of transmission-based precautions*.

For cohorting of patients with PEC, refer to *Policy: Cohorting patients requiring isolation*.

For additional information on environmental cleaning procedures, refer to the *Policy: Daily and Discharge Cleaning*

References

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “Interim Guidance for a Public Health Response to Contain Novel or Targeted Multidrug-resistant Organisms” Containment Strategy Guidelines. Updated January 2019, available online at: [Health-Response-Contain-MDRO-H.pdf \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDRO) Management) Infection Control. Updated February 15, 2017 available online at: [MDRO Management | Guidelines Library | Infection Control | CDC](#)