

Outpatient Infection Control Guideline Checklist

Clinicians and Staff
Level 1



The current state of the issue

Over the past few decades, healthcare delivery has largely moved from acute inpatient facilities to outpatient and community-based settings.¹ Proper infection control practices are essential to reduce the risk of healthcare-acquired infections.² The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) developed minimum expectations for outpatient infection control in 2016, but emerging pathogens and the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the need for more robust procedures.³ These guidelines focus on infection control measures for outpatient healthcare settings. While they provide a general outline to improve infection control practices, each site must adhere to applicable regulations from the CDC, Department of Health, and their local health jurisdiction as needed.

Prevention

- ☐ Inform patients on risk of infection and educate patients on how to mitigate risk.
- ☐ Anticipate and initiate standard, contact, and droplet, and airborne precautions for healthcare providers and staff.
- ☐ Stay up to date on appropriate vaccination based on the [CDC Immunization Schedule](#) and [ACIP Vaccine Recommendations](#).
- ☐ Practice proper hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand sanitizer or wash hands with soap and water, respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette, and mask guidance, injection safety practices.

Monitoring/Disease Surveillance

- ☐ Provide information to patients about the prevalence of circulating communicable diseases using patient education material as needed.

Minimizing Exposure

- ☐ Follow precautions to minimize exposure when a potentially infectious patient or patient at high-risk for circulating infectious disease visits the outpatient health facility.

Example Workflow to Minimize Exposure

- ☐ Offer phone or virtual visit if telehealth is appropriate for patient's concern.
- ☐ Encourage online check-in and have patients notify staff of arrival prior to entry of building.
- ☐ Request patients take a home test if available to confirm disease.
- ☐ Patient to wear appropriate PPE or source control, including masks (surgical vs N95) as indicated by current guidelines.
- ☐ Patients, providers, and staff wash hands and limit contact with objects.



- ☐ Place patient in a private room immediately upon arrival.
- ☐ Allow sufficient time to elapse prior to entering a room vacated by a patient with an airborne infectious disease. Follow CDC guidelines for clearance times.
- ☐ Use an EPA-registered healthcare disinfectant, that has a kill claim for the pathogen(s) of concern, according to manufacturer's instructions. Focus on high-touch areas and ensure the disinfectant is compatible with the items being disinfected.

Resources

- The Bree Report on Pediatric Asthma is meant to supplement these resources.
- Full Bree Report on Outpatient Infection Control: www.qualityhealth.org/bree/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2022/09/Bree-Outpatient-Infection-Control_Final.pdf
- WA DOH Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR): www.doh.wa.gov/public-health-healthcare-providers/healthcare-professions-and-facilities/healthcare-associated-infections/infection-control-assessment-and-response
- WA DOH Notifiable Conditions: doh.wa.gov/public-health-provider-resources/notifiable-conditions
- CDC Infection Control Self-Assessment Tools: www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/infection-control-assessment-tools.html
- CDC Infection Control Resource Center: www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/index.html
- CDC Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings: www.cdc.gov/hai/settings/outpatient/outpatient-care-guidelines.html
- OSHA Infectious Disease and Healthcare Workers: www.osha.gov/healthcare/infectious-diseases

Read the full Bree Report on Outpatient Infection Control online by scanning the QR code:



Connect with the Bree Collaborative at bree@qualityhealth.org

References: 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (September 2016). Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings: Minimum Expectations for Safe Care. <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/outpatient/guide.pdf> 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections. Accessed April 26, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/prevention.html> 3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (September 2016). Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings: Minimum Expectations for Safe Care. <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/outpatient/guide.pdf>