

Outpatient Infection Control Guideline Checklist

Health System Administration
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

- ☐ Anticipate and initiate appropriate standard, contact, droplet, and airborne precautions for healthcare providers and staff.
- ☐ Educate staff on infection prevention and control (IPC) procedures relevant to their place of work. This may include [hand hygiene](#) with alcohol-based hand sanitizer or wash hands with soap and water, [injection safety](#), and [standard precautions](#).
- ☐ Educate and encourage appropriate equitable vaccination for patients, staff and providers based on the [CDC Immunization Schedule](#) and [ACIP Vaccine Recommendations](#).
- ☐ Provide voluntary vaccinations for staff and providers based on CDC [recommended vaccines for healthcare providers](#) and maintain records of exemptions.
- ☐ Provide proper PPE based on standard and transmission-based precautions according to the CDC. Ensure appropriate training on donning and doffing PPE as well as proper care and maintenance.
- ☐ Ensure IPC training, bloodborne pathogens (BBP) training, and PPE training for staff.
- ☐ Maintain respiratory protection plan as required for your setting, including fit-testing for staff who will need to wear an N95 or other tight-fitting filtering facepiece respirator.
- ☐ Manage the risk of staff infections according to current guidelines.

Monitoring/Disease Surveillance

- ☐ Coordinate with appropriate level of public health for reportable infectious diseases. (Notifiable conditions for Washington state can be found [here](#).)
- ☐ Notify staff of exposure and report outbreaks according to HELSA.

Minimizing Exposure

- ☐ Follow applicable mandatory Washington State Labor and Industry and OSHA standards to minimize workplace exposures for staff and providers.
- ☐ Encourage staff and providers to remain home if suspected illness and offer non-putative sick leave.
- ☐ Encourage appropriate IPC policies for common workspace or gathering places such as lunchrooms.
- ☐ Encourage appropriate IPC policies for meetings for providers and staff and consider meeting virtually.

Environment of Care

- ☐ Provide easily accessible masks, hand sanitizer, and garbage cans.
- ☐ Ensure all surfaces are cleanable.
- ☐ Ensure clear separation between clean and dirty storage.
- ☐ Follow guidelines for appropriate storage of supplies from the CDC and regular review expiration dates of medications and equipment.

Sterilization and High-Level Disinfection

- ☐ Develop plans for routine device sterilization and environmental cleaning.

Resources

- The Bree Report on Outpatient Infection Control 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>