

# Outpatient Infection Control Guideline Checklist

Health System Administration  
Level 2



## 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.<sup>1</sup> Proper infection control practices are essential to reduce the risk of healthcare-acquired infections.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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

- ☐ Recognize common biases, social determinants of health and barriers preventing vaccination. Consider motivational interviewing to address vaccine hesitancy.

### Monitoring/Disease Surveillance

- ☐ Provide information to patients about the prevalence of circulating communicable diseases in the form of visual aids and data dashboards. Information about infectious disease is available from local public health jurisdictions, Washington state Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and other sources.

### Minimizing Exposure

- ☐ Establish or create patient workflows to reduce infection risk to other patients, providers, and staff in office (see example below for Potentially Infected Patients).
  - 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.

## Sterilization and High-Level Disinfection

- ☐ Practice proper reprocessing and sterilization of reusable devices according to nationally recognized and evidence-based guidelines and follow manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFUs).

## Community Spread

- ☐ Provide evidence or best practice-based educational material about preventative measures and treatments in a format that is accessible to community members.



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/infection-control-assessment-tools.html)
- CDC Infection Control Resource Center: [www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/index.html)
- CDC Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings: [www.cdc.gov/hai/settings/outpatient/outpatient-care-guidelines.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hai/settings/outpatient/outpatient-care-guidelines.html)
- OSHA Infectious Disease and Healthcare Workers: [www.osha.gov/healthcare/infectious-diseases](http://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](mailto: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>