



## Iowa Department of Public Health

### **Minimal Recommendations for Use of Surgical or Procedure Masks and Respirators Around Patients with Cough Illness**

Influenza, pertussis and other diseases are transmitted via droplets produced by coughing. The following infection prevention guidelines are recommended when caring for anyone presenting with a cough illness. Clinicians or infection preventionists may recommend additional infection prevention measures if indicated by a specific patient or situation in the community.

#### **Standard Precautions and Droplet Precautions should be used when caring for all patients with a cough illness.**

##### **Masks**

A mask should fit snugly around the nose and mouth to prevent gaps, forcing air flow through the mask.

##### **Standard Precautions**

For complete guidelines visit: [www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007IP/2007isolationPrecautions.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007IP/2007isolationPrecautions.html).

##### **Droplet Precautions**

Health care providers should wear surgical or procedure masks when giving direct care to patients with a cough illness.

##### **Specimen collection:**

Use standard and droplet precautions for most specimen collection.

**Aerosol-generating procedures** (e.g. intubation, bronchoscopy, open-system respiratory suction, resuscitation, autopsy, etc.)

- Particulate respirator (e.g. EU FFP2, USNIOSH-certified N-95)
- Eye protection
- A clean non-sterile, long sleeved gown
- Gloves (some of these procedures require sterile gloves)

**Transport within healthcare facilities** (for transport of patients with cough illness).

- Patient should wear a surgical or procedure mask when outside the patient's room.
- Encourage performance of hand hygiene frequently and follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette practices.

**Transport between patient residence and healthcare facilities** (for transport of patients with cough illness)

- Patient should wear a surgical or procedure mask when outside the patient's room.
- Transporters should wear a surgical or procedure mask whenever the patient is not masked.

##### **Clinics, medical offices or other ambulatory care settings**

- Patients with a cough illness in outpatient settings should be asked to wear a surgical or procedure mask until being examined in the exam room and again upon leaving the exam room.
- Staff who have close contact, including examining or providing direct patient care, should wear a surgical or procedure mask and put the mask on before entering the room.
- Staff should perform hand hygiene, and then put on mask followed by gloves. When patient care is complete, first remove gloves, then remove the mask, and lastly perform hand hygiene.

For additional information on Standard Precautions and Droplet Precautions, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette go to [www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007IP/2007isolationPrecautions.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007IP/2007isolationPrecautions.html).