What are Contact Precautions?

Contact precautions are used when a patient has a particular germ that we must prevent from spreading in the hospital. These germs can be spread after touching the patient or items in their room.

A Contact Precaution sign is placed outside the room to inform staff, family and visitors of what they must do before they enter the room.

We all need to work together to protect our vulnerable patients. Thank you for your help.

When Contact Precautions are in place staff will:

• Clean hands before and after patient contact.
• Wear gloves and gowns when in contact with the patient and their environment.
• Remove gown and gloves when leaving the room.
• Keep equipment in the patient’s room so it is used for only that patient, or sanitize equipment prior to use for another patient.

What does this mean for Visitors?

• Always clean your hands before entering and when exiting the room.
• Wear gown and gloves while in the room visiting the patient.
• Remove the gown and gloves when leaving the room.
• Do not assist or visit other patients.
• Avoid use of common areas when visiting (TV lounges, kitchen area, and unit front desk).

If you notice anyone not following these precautions, speak up!
All assistance to help keep patients safe is welcome!