Airborne Precautions Fact Sheet

What are Airborne Precautions?
Germs can be in small airborne particles that remain in the air for long periods of time and are carried by air currents. People may breathe the germs in if they are in the same room as the client, or even if they are some distance away. This is called Airborne Transmission. Airborne Precautions help stop the spread of germs carried by airborne transmission.

What procedures are used for Airborne Precautions?
- The client will be given a private room. The door will be kept closed at all times, whether he/she is in the room or not
- A sign will be placed on the door to let everyone know the special precautions
- Staff and visitors will wear special masks called respirators while in the room
- Staff will take the client out of the room for medically essential purposes only
- Before entering or leaving the room all staff, clients and visitors will wash hands with soap and water if visibly soiled, or use alcohol-based hand rub

What can the client do to help?
- Keep the door closed at all times whether in the room or not
- Stay in the room unless staff has approved leaving the room
- Put on a mask before leaving the room and keep it on at all times when out of the room
- Cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and throw the tissue away in the wastebasket in the room and perform hand hygiene
- Wash hands with soap and water if visibly soiled, or use alcohol-based hand rub:
  - Before leaving the room
  - After coughing/sneezing
  - After going to the bathroom
  - Before eating

What should visitors do?
- Read the sign on the door and discuss with staff the precautions to follow
- They will be educated by staff about how to wear the respirators while in the room
- Ask the staff if they have any questions
- Wear respirators as instructed by staff
- Wash their hands with soap and water if visibly soiled, or use alcohol-based hand rub before entering and leaving the room
- Limit the number of visitors

Connect with the care team if you have any questions