

EXAMPLE SURGERY CENTER
Policy and Procedure Manual
Infection Control

POLICY

Emerging Infectious Disease

Approved: Governing Body
Date: PENDING

Date Revised:

Purpose:

This policy is intended to give guidance when an emerging communicable disease outbreak occurs.

Policy:

The primary guidance for the center's response to an infectious disease outbreak would come from information issued by local, state, and federal government agencies, such as the Department of Health or the Center for Disease Control.

Unless otherwise directed by local, state, and federal government agencies, the center will isolate anyone in the center suspected of possible exposure to the infectious disease after evaluation. The evaluation will be determined at the time of the outbreak taking into account the following:

- Information issued by local, state, and federal government agencies or other reliable sources about the disease
- Guidance issued by local, state, and federal government agencies or other reliable sources about how to identify the symptoms of the disease
- Symptoms of the disease
- Contagiousness of the disease
- Area of the world in which it can be contracted

Procedure:

Screening:

All patients will be screened during the pre-procedural phone assessment or at the time of admission for international travel within the past 30 days.

As recommended/required by local, state, and federal government agencies, the center will place signage, surgical masks and alcohol-based hand hygiene products in the waiting room and/or at the reception desk so that they are available to all patients and visitors upon entry to the Center in all languages that are appropriate to our patient community.

As recommended/required by the State Department of Health or CDC, the Center will implement additional communicable disease triage screening upon admission, such as:

- In the past 2 weeks, have you had a fever?

- In the past 2 weeks, have you had a rash or unusual skin lesion?
- In the past 2 weeks, have you had cough, shortness of breath, or trouble breathing?
- In the past 2 weeks, have you traveled outside the United States or had close contact with someone who traveled outside the United States?

Infection Control Measures:

When a patient with a positive communicable disease triage screen is identified, prompt implementation of Standard Precautions, respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette, and appropriate isolation precautions based on the known or likely routes of transmission of the suspected infection will decrease the risk of transmission to others. At a minimum, standard, droplet and contact precautions should be used for all patients with a positive communicable disease triage screen.

The patient will be promptly moved to an isolation room or segregated patient bay, separated from other patients, visitors, and non-essential staff pending medical evaluation

The center will keep those suspected of possible exposure isolated until the individuals have either been cleared, have been transferred to another entity, have been directed to see an outside doctor, or have elected to leave the center.

Notification and Reporting:

When a patient with a positive communicable disease triage screen is identified, the Director of Nursing, Infection Preventionist, Medical Director, and Administrator shall be notified immediately.

The Center will immediately contact the Local Health Department (if unable to reach the Local Department of Health, the Center will contact the NYSDOH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control at 518-473-4439 during business hours or the NYSDOH Public Health Duty Officer at 1-866-881-2809 evenings, weekends, and holidays).

In coordination with the Department of Health, Center administration will arrange for the patient to be transferred to a higher level of care for further evaluation and appropriate laboratory testing.

A log will be maintained to track the names and contact information for all persons who had contact with the patient, in the event that follow up is needed.

An incident report will be completed and reported to the QAPI Committee and Board of Directors.