

Glossary

Infection Prevention & Control

Acute respiratory tract infection - Sudden onset of illness with fever and new or change in existing cough, AND with one or more of the following: sore throat, joint pain, muscle aches, severe exhaustion.

Aerosols - A suspension of tiny particles in the air, such as dust, mist, or fumes, whose motion is governed principally by particle size. These particles may be inhaled or absorbed by the skin and can sometimes cause adverse health effects for workers.

Aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP) - Any procedure carried out on a resident that can induce the production of aerosols as a result of manipulation of a person's airway. Examples of AGMPs that are common in group, residential and personal care homes are BiPAP, CPAP and medication administration through a nebulizer machine (see SHA list of AGMPs for more details).

Airborne Precautions - Required for persons with known or suspected to be infected with microorganisms that travel in tiny particles or in small respiratory droplets that contain the infectious particles. These particles can suspend in the air and travel, and be breathed in.

Antibiotic Resistant Organisms (ARO) - A microorganism that has developed resistance to the action of one or more antimicrobial agents of special clinical or epidemiologic significance. As such, microorganisms that are considered antimicrobial-resistant can vary over time and place. Examples of microorganisms included in this group are (MRSA, VRE, VRSA, ESBL, CRE, MDRA). Other microorganisms may be added to this list if antibiotic resistance is judged to be significant in a specific healthcare facility or patient population, at the discretion of local, regional or national authorities. MRSA = Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* VRE = Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci VRSA = Vancomycin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* ESBL = Extended Spectrum Beta-lactamase CRE = Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae MDRA = Multi Drug resistant *Acinetobacter*

Colonization - The presence of germs (bacteria) that may be in or on the body, but no signs of illness or infection. Residents who are colonized will have no signs or symptoms. The resident feels fine. Example, MRSA can cause colonization.

Contact Transmission: can be direct or indirect.

Direct Contact - Means that you can transfer the organism as a result of direct physical contact between an infected or colonized source. This is body to body surface.

Indirect Contact - Means that you transfer the organism to another by contaminated hands or by contaminated objects in the environment.

Common Vehicle Transmission - Refers to a single contaminated source such as food, medication, equipment, etc. which serves to transmit infection to multiple people.

Vector Borne Transmission - Refers to transmission by insect vectors.

Contained - A dressing or device capable of holding all drainage, secretions and discharge.

Continuing Care - Includes settings in which medical, physical and social services are provided to support the needs of people living with chronic illness. The goal of the continuing care setting is to prevent deterioration of function and, when possible, improve the function of the resident or client. This includes long term care, personal care, group homes and other supportive living areas.

Droplet - Solid or liquid particles suspended in the air, whose motion is governed principally by gravity. Droplets are generated primarily as the result of an infected source coughing, sneezing or talking.

Droplet Precautions - Are used for persons with known or suspected to be infected with an infectious illness that is spread by large particle droplets. When the infected person propels droplets through the air (about 2 meters) by coughing, sneezing, or talking or during certain procedures, the germs can land on a surface or in the eyes, nose or mouth.

Infection - The presence of germs (microorganisms) that may be in or on the body that cause signs of illness or infection. (e.g., localized pain/tenderness, redness, warmth, swelling, pus, fever, pneumonia). Example, MRSA can cause an infection.

Poor Hygiene - Inability to perform or cooperate with performing all forms of personal cleanliness including bathing, oral care, and hand hygiene.

Residents - Are persons who receive or have requested health care in the Continuing Care System (LTC, personal care, group and residential homes). These terms may be used interchangeably, depending on the health care setting. Term client or participant may be used interchangeably, depending on the care setting.

Resolved - When the symptoms defining the illness are no longer present. For example, acute respiratory illness is resolved when cough is not longer present or back to baseline for resident.

Routine Practices - Includes:

- Hand Hygiene
- Point of Care Risk Assessment
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Resident Placement/Accommodation
- Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette
- Handling Resident Items & Equipment
- Linen & Dishes
- Environmental Cleaning
- Waste and Sharps Handling

Transfer - When a resident leaves the care home.

Transmission - The process whereby infectious germs pass from a source to cause infection in a susceptible host.