

7.7 Caring for Patients with Airborne or Droplet Isolation

(Updated 11.5.2018)

1. Health care personnel must wear the appropriate personal protective equipment at all times.
2. Health care personnel entering a negative pressure room or caring for a person requiring airborne precautions must wear a NIOSH approved N-95 or higher level respirator.
3. All N-95 respirators require individuals to undergo fit testing.
 1. Due to the large number of student nurses, clinical faculty, and clinical affiliate sites, it is not feasible to fit test each individual for the N-95 product used at each clinical affiliate. Therefore, **no student nurse and no clinical faculty may care for a person requiring airborne precautions or enter a negative pressure room.** The one exception to this policy is students following the TB nurse for the local health department. These students must be fit-tested with the N-95 respirator mask, and that mask will be used if the student will come in contact with a patient who has active TB.
4. Student nurses and clinical faculty are responsible for not accepting an assignment nor assisting with care for any person on airborne precautions.
 - a. This applies to ALL student nurses and faculty members, including those who may also be staff members at the facility.
5. If a student nurse is working alongside a staff member who is caring for a person on airborne precaution, they must notify that staff member they are not permitted to enter the room.
6. If a staff member has a question about a clinical assignment, they should be referred to the clinical faculty member.
7. Examples of diseases requiring airborne precautions include but are not limited to
 - a. Disseminated zoster (shingles)
 - b. Mycobacterium tuberculosis
 - c. Rubeola (measles)
 - d. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
 - e. Smallpox
 - f. Varicella zoster (chickenpox)