



**Severe Communicable Disease  
Essential Staff Training  
Terminology**

The following terms and definitions are used in the course:

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR)	A single patient room equipped with special air handling and ventilation capacity
Airborne Precautions	Prevent transmission of infectious agents that remain infectious over long distances when suspended in the air (e.g. rubeola virus/measles). Typically involves patient placement in a single patient airborne infection isolation room. Healthcare personnel caring for patients on Airborne Precautions wear a mask or respiratory depending on disease specific recommendations.
Communicable Disease	Communicable diseases spread from one person to another or from an animal to a person. The spread often happens via airborne viruses or bacteria, but also through blood or other bodily fluid. The terms infectious and contagious are also used to describe communicable disease.
Contact precautions	Used where there is presence of an excessive amount of wound drainage, fecal incontinence or other discharges from the body resulting in an increased potential for contamination and risk of transmission. Patients are typically placed in single patient rooms and caregivers use gowns and gloves for all interactions involving contact with the patient. Gowns and gloves are donned upon entry to the room and removed before exit.
Drills	An exercise designed to test a single function and associated plans and protocols
Droplet precautions	A patient will be placed on droplet precautions when he or she has an infection with germs that can be spread to others by speaking, sneezing, or coughing. Everyone coming into the room of a patient under droplet precautions will be asked to wear a mask to prevent the spread of germs to themselves.
Ebola	Ebola is a rare and deadly hemorrhagic disease caused by infection with a strain of Ebola virus. The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history, affecting multiple countries in West Africa.
Essential staff	Staff involved in the screening, triage and treatment of emergency department patients
Face shield	Designed to provide full eye and face protection
Fecal incontinence	Diarrhea often due to an infection
Frontline health worker	Staff involved in the screening, triage and treatment of emergency department patients
Hand hygiene	Any method of hand washing that removes or destroys



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	microorganisms on hands. Effective hand washing the most important measure for preventing the spread of pathogens.
Measles/Rubeola virus	An infectious viral disease causing fever and a red rash on the skin
Meningitis	Inflammation of the meninges caused by viral or bacterial infection and marked by intense headache and fever, sensitivity to light, and muscular rigidity, leading (in severe cases) to convulsions, delirium, and death.
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV)	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is a viral respiratory illness that is new to humans. It was first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and has since spread to several other countries, including the United States. Most people infected with MERS-CoV developed severe acute respiratory illness, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
Novel Influenza	An illness compatible with influenza virus infection (fever >100 degrees Fahrenheit with cough or sore throat).
Pathogens	Bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that can cause disease.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from infection.
Public health	The health of the population as a whole.
Rash	Breaking out (eruption) of the skin. A rash can be caused by an underlying medical condition.
Respiratory etiquette	Measures to contain respiratory secretions recommended for all individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection: cover mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing; perform hand hygiene.
Respiratory symptoms	Respiratory symptoms include cough, shortness of breath and/or trouble breathing.
Screening staff	Any hospital worker who greets and screens patients and visitors upon entry to the facility.
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	A virulently infectious disease caused by a corona virus.
Standard precautions	A set of infection control practices used to prevent transmission of diseases that can be acquired by contact with blood, body fluids, non-intact skin (including rashes), and mucous membranes.
Varicella/Chickenpox	A viral infection that causes an itchy, blister-like rash. Chickenpox is highly contagious to people who have not had the disease nor been vaccinated against it.
Zoster	Any inflammatory skin disease caused by a herpes virus and characterized by formation of small vesicles in clusters.