

Airborne Precautions (Respiratory Isolation) Facts

What is Airborne Precautions?

Airborne Precautions (also called respiratory isolation) is a way to protect other patients, visitors and staff from breathing in the air breathed out by people who have certain diseases. You are in isolation because you have a disease that is spread by respiratory droplets. In order to protect others, you will have a private hospital room. This room has a special air system that puts fresh air into the room but stops the air that is in the room from going to the rest of the building. The door to your room must always be closed. There will be a sign on your door saying that it is an Airborne Precautions room.

Why are people wearing masks?

Most staff going into your room will wear a mask for their protection. Every visitor will also have to wear a mask. Staff will show them how to put it on.

Can I leave my room?

As long as your doctor says that you may have active disease, you need to stay in your room. If you must leave your room for some reason, ask your nurse first. If you leave, you will receive a mask to wear. If you cough or sneeze, please cover your mouth, even if you are wearing a mask.

When will Airborne Precautions end?

You will need to stay in Airborne Precautions until your doctor says:

- You do not have active disease
- or
- There is no longer a risk of you giving the disease to other people

Thank you for your help with this. It will help keep other people from getting sick.

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