

Multidrug-Resistant Organisms and Enhanced Barrier Precautions

Fact Sheet for Nursing Home Infection Prevention Staff

You can help reduce the spread of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs).

MDROs are germs that are resistant to antimicrobial medications.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates 50% of nursing home residents have MDROs.
- Residents with an MDRO can:
 - Develop serious infections.
 - Remain infected for long periods of time.
 - Spread MDROs to others.
- Personnel can spread MDROs through contaminated hands and clothing.

Maintain an infection prevention and control (IPC) program.

IPC programs include systems to:

- Prevent.
- Identify.
- Report.
- Investigate.
- And control infections and communicable disease.

IPC programs include guidance for:

- Residents.
- Staff.
- Volunteers.
- Visitors.
- Other service providers.

Enhanced barrier protections (EPB) protect residents and staff.

EPB is the use of gowns and gloves in specific situations. Use EPB during high-contact resident care activities when an MDRO is indicated.

High contact resident care activities include:

- Device care or use (central lines, urinary catheters, feeding tubes, and ventilator/tracheostomies).
- Wound care.
- Assisting with toileting.
- Bathing or showering.
- Transferring.
- Changing linens.
- Changing briefs.
- Dressing.

Indications	EBP Required	EBP Encouraged
Pan-resistant organisms	✓	
Carbapenemase-producing organisms.	✓	
Candida auris	✓	
Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)		✓
ESBL-producing Enterobacterales		✓
Vancomycin-resistant Enterococci (VRE)		✓
Multidrug-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa		✓
Drug-resistant Streptococcus pneumoniae		✓
Residents with: • Wounds. • Indwelling medical devices. Regardless of MDRO status.	✓	

Questions?

Contact Elle Cooper at bcooper@tpchd.org.

Or contact the Department of Health (DOH) MDRO team at mdro-ar@doh.wa.gov.

Bring your questions to the EBP & MDRO office hours every Monday from 1-2pm on Zoom.

Register in advance:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZYkdOusgDktE9DRi5H6JhJttbQgKBVDKTHV>

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Resources

- [Implementation of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) to prevent spread of MDROs, CDC.](#)
- [EBP in skilled nursing facilities webinar, CDC.](#)
- [Frequently asked questions about EBP, CDC.](#)
- [Summary table of PPE and room restriction, CDC.](#)
- [Type and duration of precautions recommended for selected infections and conditions, CDC.](#)
- [EBP pre-implementation tool, CDC.](#)
- [EBP observations tool, CDC.](#)
- [EBP observations summary excel spreadsheet, CDC.](#)
- [EBP letter to nursing home residents, families, friends, and volunteers, CDC.](#)
- [EBP letter to nursing home staff, CDC.](#)
- [EBP letter to nursing home leadership, CDC.](#)
- [EBP precaution sign, CDC.](#)
- [EBP algorithm, Virginia Department of Health.](#)
- [Infection and control in long term learning collaboratives, University of Florida.](#)