

that have multiple routes of transmission ([Box 6-1](#)). They are to be used in addition to Standard Precautions.

Box 6-1

Types of Precautions and Patients Requiring Them

Standard Precautions for Prevention of Transmission of Pathogens

Use Standard Precautions for the care of all patients. Hand hygiene should be emphasized as part of Standard Precautions.

Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette

In addition to Standard Precautions the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests a combination of measures designed to minimize the transmission of respiratory pathogens via droplet or airborne routes in the health care environment. Measures include covering the mouth and nose during coughing and sneezing; offering a surgical mask to persons who are coughing; using tissues to contain respiratory secretions; turning the head away from others; and keeping a space of 3 feet or more when coughing. These measures should be used for patients and visitors or family members who have symptoms of respiratory infection upon entry to the health care institution ([Siegel, Rhinehart, Jackson, et al, 2007](#)).

Airborne Precautions

In addition to Standard Precautions, use Airborne Precautions and airborne infection isolation room (AIIR) for patients known or suspected to have serious illnesses transmitted by airborne droplet nuclei. Examples of such illnesses include measles, varicella (including disseminated zoster), and tuberculosis.

Droplet Precautions

In addition to Standard Precautions, use Droplet Precautions for patients known or suspected to have serious illnesses transmitted by large particle droplets. Examples of such illnesses include:

- Invasive *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) disease, including meningitis, pneumonia, epiglottitis, and sepsis