**Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette**

To prevent the transmission of **all** respiratory infections in healthcare settings, including influenza/Covid-19, the following infection control measures should be implemented at the first point of contact with a potentially infected person.

The following measures to contain respiratory secretions are recommended for all individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection.

* Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
* Use in the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use;
* Perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic handwash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.
* Provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for used tissue disposal.
* Provide conveniently located dispensers of alcohol-based hand rub; where sinks are available, ensure that supplies for hand washing (i.e., soap, disposable towels) are consistently available.

1. Masking and Separation of Persons with Respiratory Symptoms

offer masks to persons who are coughing. Either procedure masks (i.e., with ear loops) or surgical masks (i.e., with ties) may be used to contain respiratory secretions (respirators such as N-95 or above are not necessary for this purpose). When space and chair availability permit, encourage coughing persons to sit at least three feet away from others in common waiting areas.

1. Droplet Precautions

Wear a surgical or procedure mask for close contact, in addition to Standard Precautions, when examining a patient with symptoms of a respiratory infection, particularly if fever is present. These precautions should be maintained until it is determined that the cause of symptoms is not an infectious agent that requires [Droplet Precautions](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/).