

HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

RESPIRATORY HYGIENE – COUGH ETIQUETTE

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PURPOSE: To outline the proper steps to be taken to minimize the transmission of respiratory pathogens.

SUPPORTING DATA:

CDC Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings, 2004. OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (Fed. Reg. 12/91).

PROCEDURE:

Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette

1. Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette is for all healthcare workers, patients and visitors.
2. Everyone should:
 - a. cover their mouth and nose during coughing and sneezing.
 - b. use tissues to contain respiratory secretions with prompt disposal into a no-touch receptacle
 - c. offering a surgical mask to persons who are coughing/or using a surgical mask to decrease contamination of the surrounding environment
 - d. when coughing and /or sneezing turning the head away from others and maintaining spatial separation, ideally >3 feet, when coughing.

Universal Respiratory Precautions for Healthcare Settings

- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or surgical masks
- Wash hands frequently
- Wear gloves & gowns and replace often
- Get your FLU and PNEU vaccines