

“Isolation Room” Considerations - COVID-19

Use of the Isolation Room

- Any aerosol producing procedures should be completed in a separate room other than the isolation room. These include nebulizer treatments, tracheostomy suctioning and other procedures involving a tracheostomy.
- Have chairs/cots set up in the isolation room to allow for social distancing.
 - Consider placing stickers or markings on the floor to indicate where chairs should be placed to ensure social distancing.
- Limit the staff that are allowed to enter the isolation room.
- Keep a log of the students and staff in the isolation room to assist with contact tracing if needed.
- Students in the isolation room should be supervised by school staff.
- Students in the isolation room waiting to be dismissed to their home should have their symptoms monitored at regular intervals as determined by the School Nurse.
- If there is no access to a dedicated bathroom facility, use of a restroom must be monitored by staff from an appropriate social distance, and then immediately sanitized by the custodian and access denied to others until the disinfection procedure is completed.

Furniture in the Isolation Room

- Furniture in the isolation room should be made of materials that can easily be cleaned and disinfected, such as vinyl chairs or cots, with a smooth surface.
- There should be minimal furniture included in the isolation room to allow for efficient cleaning.

Social Distancing in the Isolation Room

- All students and staff should attempt to maintain a 6-foot distance while in the isolation room.
- If it is not possible for the student to wear a mask while in the isolation room, consider the use of a physical barrier such as plexiglass.
- Consider the use of floor markings to indicate to students and staff where to stand/sit to maintain social distancing.
- Consider having a back-up staff person available to assist with student overflow to assist students in maintaining social distancing while waiting to be seen by the isolation room staff.

Environment

- Develop a protocol to increase circulation of outdoor air into the room as much as possible throughout the school day (e.g., opening windows if it is safe to do so).

Cleaning

- Establish a protocol outlining how often cleaning and disinfecting of the isolation room will occur.

- Disinfection should not occur with students in the room.
- Consider the use of a check-off form to track cleaning and disinfecting.
- Identify which items and locations will be cleaned during routine cleaning and disinfecting.
- Remember to clean and disinfect high touch objects including doorknob, cabinet handles, light switch, chairs, cots, phone, walkie talkie computer, sink, toilet and medical equipment.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children, and with adequate ventilation when staff use products.

Personal Protective Equipment

- Students with COVID-like symptoms should be wearing a cloth facial covering or mask prior to entering the isolation room.
- Staff in the isolation room should wear, at minimum, a surgical mask.
- Staff may consider wearing gloves, lab coat/isolation gown and face shield or eye protection.

References

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- Wisconsin Association of School Boards. (June 2020). Addendum to staff handbook concerning pandemic workplace protocols. Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <https://wasb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Addendum-to-Employee-Handbook-Concerning-Pandemic-Protocols-20200720.docx>