



SMP Health

Maryhill

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<https://smphealth.org/maryhill>

Dear Residents, Families, Friends, and Volunteers:

You will notice new signs in the facility that say, "Enhanced Barrier Precautions" and staff wearing gowns and gloves more often. We're doing this based on new recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protect our residents and staff from germs that can cause serious infections and are hard to treat. You may have heard of these germs called multidrug-resistant organisms or MDROs in the news.

Studies have shown that more than 50% of nursing home residents nationwide have these germs on or in their body, especially in places where the skin is broken, such as wounds or insertion sites of medical devices like feeding tubes. Most of the time people never know they are carrying these germs but under certain conditions they can enter the body and cause serious infections.

Fortunately, there are many things we can do to keep these germs from spreading, but we need your help! Two important practices are:

1. **Cleaning our hands.** Alcohol-based hand sanitizer can kill these germs and keep us from spreading them with our hands. This is why we remind you and your visitors to frequently clean your hands.
2. **Using gowns and gloves.** Since we can't wash our clothes between caring for residents, gowns and gloves help keep these germs from getting on our clothes and spreading to others when we are having close contact with residents. This is why you might see us wearing a gown and gloves when we are performing transfers or other activities involving a lot of contact with a resident. Just because we are wearing a gown and gloves doesn't mean that a resident is carrying one of these germs. We also wear them to protect residents who might be more vulnerable to developing a serious infection if exposed to these germs. We will also wear them if we expect a care activity to be messy, like if we are changing a dressing on a wound.

To support these practices, you will notice that additional alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers were added inside the rooms, carts to hold clean gowns and gloves, and trash cans so we can change gowns and gloves between residents. You will also see more signs to help remind staff when they should be wearing gowns and gloves.

We are always happy to answer any questions you might have about actions we are taking to protect our residents and staff and appreciate your support!

Please contact us with additional questions.

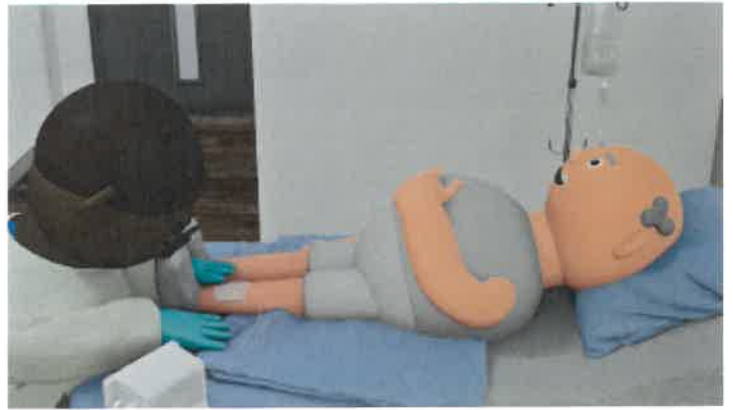
Sincerely,

Bailyn Walz
(701)437-3544

To learn more about Enhanced Barrier Precautions, please visit **Implementation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Use in Nursing Homes to Prevent Spread of Multidrug-resistant Organisms (MDROs)** at <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes.html>.

Enhanced Barrier Precautions

How We Keep Our Residents Safe



What's New

We are using Enhanced Barrier Precautions to help protect our residents from infection. You may notice:

- New signs throughout the facility
- Staff wearing gowns and gloves for high-contact care activities


Why We're Making These Changes

We are taking action to protect our residents from dangerous germs. These germs can cause infections that are hard to treat.


Enhanced Barrier Precautions allow us to provide safe, high quality care and help stop the spread of germs within our facility.

STOP **ENHANCED BARRIER PRECAUTIONS** **STOP**

EVERYONE MUST:


 Clean their hands, including before entering and when leaving the room.

PROVIDERS AND STAFF MUST ALSO:

 Wear gloves and a gown for the following High-Contact Resident Care Activities.

Dressing
Bathing/Showering
Transferring
Changing Linens
Providing Hygiene
Changing briefs or assisting with toileting
Device care or use:
central line, urinary catheter, feeding tube,
tracheostomy
Wound Care: any skin opening requiring a dressing

 Do not wear the same gown and gloves for the care of more than one person.

 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

How to Help When You Visit

You can help stop the spread of germs by cleaning your hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.

Learn more about Enhanced Barrier Precautions:
bit.ly/PPE-NursingHomes

