

ACUTE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS (including Flu and Covid-19) At-a-Glance

DEFINITION	<p>Acute respiratory illness can affect the sinuses, throat, airways or lungs. Symptoms can include: pyrexia, cough, breathlessness, sore throat, sneezing, blocked or runny nose, muscle pains, headache and lethargy. In the paediatric patient there may be nausea and vomiting.</p>
MANAGEMENT	<p>Isolate in side room if possible – use OUH ‘Airborne precautions’ isolation poster. Door must remain closed. If it is not possible, give the patient a surgical mask.</p> <p>STRICT attention to infection prevention and control precautions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand hygiene is the most effective way to prevent transmission by direct contact and must be performed by patients, staff and visitors. • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (Level 1) is gloves, apron, surgical mask. Add eye protection when taking a respiratory swab or if risk of splashes. • For aerosol generating procedures (AGP) (Level 2) use gloves, long sleeve gown, FFP3 mask and eye protection. Aerosol generating procedures include chest physio, suctioning, intubation, CPR, bronchoscopy, non-invasive ventilation (e.g. CPAP, BiPAP), and high flow nasal oxygen (e.g. Optiflow, Airvo). Note: administration of medication via nebulisation is not an AGP. <p>If a respiratory swab required, collect 1 combined throat/nasopharyngeal swabs using a red topped viral swab in transport medium.</p> <p>Encourage good respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette by staff & patient</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Catch it, Bin it, Kill it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the patient is transferred please inform receiving staff of patient’s infection status, including radiology, theatres or other hospital/health care settings. The patient should be asked to wear a surgical mask during transfers if tolerated. • When discharging infected patient to another healthcare setting, please complete the ‘Inter-Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control transfer form’.
CLEANING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment - Single use / single patient use if possible. • Daily enhanced cleaning of the side room/bed space of all patients with acute respiratory illness should be requested via the help desk, and a terminal clean on discharge. • All frequently-touched surfaces should be clutter free and cleaned three times a day. • All equipment used MUST be decontaminated using Green Clinell Wipes before being brought out of the patient room and after every patient use.