



Standard Precautions — For Every Patient, Every Time

The nine practices that apply regardless of diagnosis. Ward poster

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

Every patient. Every time. Whatever the diagnosis.

	Practice	The rule
1	Hand hygiene	Five Moments. Rub for 20–30 s or wash for 40–60 s. Before gloves and after removing them.
2	Gloves	For contact with blood, body fluids, mucous membranes, broken skin. Change between patients and between sites. Gloves do not replace hand hygiene.
3	Mask, eye protection, face shield	Whenever splashes or sprays are likely.
4	Gown or apron	Whenever clothing may be soiled. Remove before leaving the patient area.
5	Sharps	Never recap. Dispose at the point of use in a puncture-proof container, filled to no more than three-quarters.
6	Respiratory hygiene	Cover coughs; mask coughing patients; 1 m separation in waiting areas; hand hygiene after.
7	Environmental cleaning	Clean and disinfect surfaces and equipment between patients; high-touch surfaces daily.
8	Linen	Handle used linen with minimal agitation; bag at the bedside; do not sort on the ward.
9	Waste	Segregate at the point of generation: infectious, sharps, general (Toolkit 10).

Add transmission-based precautions (contact, droplet, airborne) for specific infections — see the ASF infection-route posters.

ASF standards: Standard 3 — standard precautions