

Enhanced Barrier Precautions for Long-term Care Facilities

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released interim guidance on the implementation of Enhanced Barrier Precautions (EBP) in July of 2019. The interim guidance is intended for use during a Containment Response to prevent the spread of novel or targeted multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs). Novel or targeted MDROs are uncommon in Minnesota but can cause difficult- or impossible-to-treat infections and can readily spread in healthcare facilities. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has responded to outbreaks of novel or targeted MDROs in Minnesota long-term care facilities.

As of July 2019, CDC defines Novel or Targeted MDROs as:

- **Pan-resistant organisms**
 - Organisms that are intermediate or resistant to all antibiotics
- **Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae**
 - A type of CRE (carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae) that produces a carbapenemase, which is an enzyme that breaks down antibiotics and can spread between bacteria
- **Carbapenemase-producing *Pseudomonas* spp.**
 - *Pseudomonas* species that produce a carbapenemase, which is an enzyme that breaks down antibiotics and can spread between bacteria
- **Carbapenemase-producing *Acinetobacter baumannii***
 - A type of CRAB (carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*) that produces a carbapenemase, which is an enzyme that breaks down antibiotics and can spread between bacteria
- ***Candida auris***
 - An emerging fungal pathogen that can be multidrug-resistant and cause healthcare-associated outbreaks that are difficult to control

Definition of Containment Response:

A Containment Response is a strategy outlined by CDC which guides the public health response to novel or targeted MDROs, as listed above. The goal of Containment is keep new or rare forms of antibiotic resistance from spreading. The main components of a Containment Response include rapid identification of cases, conducting infection control assessments, conducting colonization screening when needed, and communicating a patient or resident's MDRO history when transferring to another facility.

Most novel or targeted MDROs are reportable to MDH and identified through surveillance at the MDH-Public Health Laboratory. MDH collaborates closely with healthcare facilities to implement Containment Responses when cases of novel or targeted MDROs are identified.

For more information about Containment Responses, refer to the following CDC link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/index.html>

The CDC Enhanced Barrier Precautions Interim Guidance can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes.html>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/faqs.html>

MDH has received several questions on EBP and recommends review of the following webinar which explains the rationale and implementation of EBP.

1. Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)

Title: Preventing the Spread of Novel or Targeted Multidrug-resistant Organisms (MDROs) in Nursing Homes through Enhanced Barrier Precautions

Link: https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2019/callinfo_102419.asp

MDH would like to emphasize the following points:

1. The interim guidance applies only to long-term care facilities during a Containment Response in relation to the defined MDROs above.
2. MDH will collaborate with facilities if a Containment Response is necessary.
3. Enhanced Barrier Precautions are not to be used in place of Contact Precautions (e.g. norovirus, influenza, *C. difficile*).
4. Facilities should understand the basic concepts of EBP by reviewing the CDC website and webinar indicated above.
5. Facilities should consider including EBP in policies and procedures indicating implementation during Containment efforts in consultation with the health department.

For questions regarding EBP please send an email to: health.icar@state.mn.us or call MDH at 651-201-5414.

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