

Johns Hopkins Hospital
2011-12 Respiratory Virus Season
Respiratory Virus Information for Parents

Dear Parent,

Your child is being tested and/or treated for a respiratory virus infection. Children can easily catch respiratory viruses from each other. They are spread by contact with respiratory secretions. These viruses usually cause a child to cough, wheeze, have a fever and sometimes have trouble breathing.

While your child is in the hospital, he or she will be on “**Droplet Precautions**” to keep this illness from spreading to others. **All staff, parents and visitors must wear gown and gloves to enter the room and a mask with eye protection when within 6 feet of the patient.** If someone forgets, please remind him or her that your child is on “Droplet Precautions.”

While your child is on “Droplet Precautions,” please help us by following these rules:

1. It is very important that you **WASH YOUR HANDS CAREFULLY OR USE THE PURELL ALCOHOL-BASED HAND CLEANER BEFORE YOU ENTER AND AFTER YOU LEAVE YOUR CHILD’S ROOM.** We know that good hand hygiene can help stop the spread of respiratory viruses.
2. You and any staff or visitor that comes in your child’s room must wear gown and gloves. In addition, when within 6 feet of the child, you and any staff or visitor must also wear a mask with eye protection.
3. Before you leave the room, remove the gloves, mask and gown. Clean your hands. Then put on a new mask (eye protection is not necessary) to go outside the room.
4. Visitors (including brothers and sisters) less than 16 years old may not visit during stage 2 of respiratory virus season. Some units may implement more stringent restrictions.
5. To protect your child and others, no one with a fever and respiratory symptoms may visit. Anyone with respiratory symptoms but no fever who must enter the hospital should put on a mask and clean their hand often to help prevent the spread of your illness.
6. Do not touch other children, their toys or clothing.
7. Do not share your child’s toys, clothes or belongings with other children.
8. You and your child are not allowed to go to the playroom. Child Life staff will bring your child bedside toys and games to use. When your child is finished playing with toys and games from Child Life, please place them in the dirty toy box.
9. Families of children on isolation precautions are not allowed to visit the Family Resource Library.

Thank you for helping us prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask your child’s doctor or nurse.

Sincerely,

Children’s Center Staff and
Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control Staff