3.21 Infection Control for Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Hospital Galveston

Purpose: To provide for triage, evaluation, and infection control for patients admitted to TDCJ Hospital Galveston.

Audience: Healthcare providers at the prison units and in TDCJ Hospital Galveston.

Policy Statement:

I. Patients with symptoms of influenza will be triaged and evaluated by healthcare providers at the units using definitions in Policy 3.1 Screening Policy for Persons with a Possible Emerging Infectious Disease (EID).

II. Patients who meet the case definition of an EID and who are ill enough to require hospitalization will be transported to Hospital Galveston for direct admission.

III. Patients will be transported directly to the Sally Port at Hospital Galveston.

IV. All personnel (healthcare workers and correctional officers) who accompany the patient from the transport vehicle in the Sally Port to a negative-pressure isolation room in the hospital will wear ABP (All Barrier Precautions) personal protective equipment (PPE). See Policy 3.2 Isolation of Patients with an Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) or a Possible EID.
   A. N-95 mask
   B. Goggles
   C. Gown
   D. Gloves

V. Isolation of Patients with an EID

   A. Until an EID is diagnosed in a patient with a suspected EID, no other patient may share the room.
   B. Patients with a confirmed EID may share a negative pressure isolation room.
   C. Healthcare workers and correctional officers who enter the room of an EID patient will wear ABP PPE.

D. All other EID policies apply to care of patients in the TDCJ Hospital Galveston.

VI. Imaging studies for patients in the TDCJ Hospital Galveston will be conducted according to Policy 3.4 Imaging Studies for Patients with an Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) except that all studies that can be performed in the X-ray department in the TDCJ Hospital Galveston will be performed there. For imaging studies not available in the TDCJ Hospital, patients will be transported to the UTMB Department of Radiology.

VII. Patients will be transported according to Policy 3.3 Transportation of Patients with an Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) or a Possible EID.

A. One of the two elevators in the TDCJ Hospital will be restricted to patients with an EID.
B. Correctional Officers who accompany patients to the free world will don ABP PPE prior to contact with patients. This will include goggles, N-95 mask, 2 gowns and 2 pairs of gloves. Patients will be placed on a stretcher or in a wheelchair and transported according to policy 3.3 Transportation of Patients with an Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) or a possible EID.

VIII. Surgical operations for patients n the TDCJ Hospital Galveston

A. Patients will be transported as described in VI above.
B. Correctional officers who accompany patients to the Operating Rooms will first don a surgical cap prior to donning N-95 masks, goggles, gown and gloves.
C. After the patient has been moved into the operating room, the correctional officer will remove his/her gloves, wash hands with an antimicrobial soap and water or apply an alcohol hand rub and then don a new pair of gloves.