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 the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (coronavirus) MERS-CoV or H7N9 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 for MERS-CoV or H7N9 influenza 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. Fit tested N-95 mask
   b. Goggles
   c. Gown
   d. Gloves

V. Isolation of Patients with an EID

B. Until an EID is diagnosed or ruled out in a patient with a suspected EID, no other patient may share the room.
C. Patients with a confirmed EID of the same type may share a negative pressure isolation room.
D. Healthcare workers and correctional officers who enter the room of an EID patient will wear ABP PPE.
E. 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). Some imaging studies can be performed in the X-ray department in the TDCJ Hospital Galveston. 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 N-95 mask, goggles, 2 gowns and 2 pairs of gloves. Patients will be placed on a stretcher or in a wheelchair in their room, and after movement from their room, the Correctional Officer will remove the outer gown and gloves.

VIII. Surgical operations for patients in 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 an N-95 mask, goggles, 2 gowns and 2 pairs of gloves.

C. After the patient has been moved out of his/her room, the Correctional Officer will remove the outer gown and gloves prior to transporting the patient.

D. After the patient has been moved into the operating room, the correctional officer will remove his/her gloves, gown, goggles and mask and then wash hands with an antimicrobial soap and water or apply an alcohol hand rub.

E. When the patient is ready to leave the PACU, the Correctional Officer will don an N-95 mask, goggles, gown and gloves prior to transporting the patient back to his/her room.