

NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
HEALTH SCIENCES
STUDENT POLICIES

STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

A = Always

O = Optional (depends on anticipated exposure)

Activities/Procedures	Handwashing	Gloves	Gowns	Masks/Goggles*	Additional Considerations
1. Talking to patient or non-direct contact.	**			***	
2. Examining patient without obvious potential for blood or body fluid contact (i.e., patient with intact skin, no apparent lesions).	A	O			Waterless alcohol-based hand rubs may be used unless hands are visibly contaminated with proteinous material.
3. Examining patient with obvious potential for blood or body fluid contact (e.g., vaginal exam, lesions on skin).	A	A	O	O	
4. Performing procedures that have potential for splattering of blood or body fluids (e.g., surgery, patients with open trauma, autopsies, dental cases).	A	A	A	A	Surgical caps/hoods and/or shoe coverings are to be worn when gross contamination is likely to occur.
5. Performing vaginal deliveries.	A	A	A	A	Surgical caps/hoods and/or shoe coverings are to be worn when gross contamination is likely to occur.
6. Collecting blood specimens (e.g., venous/arterial punctures, finger/heel sticks).	A	A	O	O	Place used sharps with syringes into sharps container immediately after use. No recapping!
7. Collecting specimens and handling of tissue, body secretions/excretions.	A	A	O	O	

Updated 05-2004; 03-2010;

Reviewed by Northwood Tech Health Sciences Program Directors 10-10-2019;

Reviewed 07-2025

NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
HEALTH SCIENCES
STUDENT POLICIES

Activities/Procedures	Handwashing	Gloves	Gowns	Masks/Goggles*	Additional Considerations
8. Oral/tracheal/nasogastric procedures (e.g., intubation, extubation, suctioning, NG tube care).	A	A	O	A	Face shield recommended.
9. Transporting specimens of blood, tissue, body secretions/excretions.	A	A			If outside of container is not clean, place inside a second container. Specimens being transported outside of Medical Center must be placed in rigid leak-proof containers and labeled as biohazardous.
10. Opening tubes or containers that are under negative pressure (e.g., vacutainers).	A	A	A	A	
11. Culturing, transferring, or splitting specimens.	A	A	A	O	No mouth pipetting. Use biohazard safety cabinet for procedures that have high potential for generating droplets.
12. Touching or handling non-invasive equipment (e.g., IV tubing, respirators, ECG monitors).	A	O			
13. Touching or handling equipment or surfaces contaminated with blood or body fluids (e.g., countertops, IV poles/pumps, vaginal speculums).	A	A	O	O	Equipment being sent out of Medical Center that cannot be completely cleaned of contaminants, must be labeled as biohazardous, indicating areas of contamination.

Updated 05-2004; 03-2010;
Reviewed by Northwood Tech Health Sciences Program Directors 10-10-2019;
Reviewed 07-2025

NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
HEALTH SCIENCES
STUDENT POLICIES

Activities/Procedures	Handwashing	Gloves	Gowns	Masks/Goggles*	Additional Considerations
14. Performing invasive diagnostic procedures (e.g., angiography, endoscopy, bronchoscopy).	A	A	A	A	Surgical caps/hoods and/or shoe coverings are to be worn when gross contamination is likely to occur.
15. Handling linen, waste, or other material that is likely to be contaminated with blood or body fluids.	A	A	O	O	
16. Performing any examination procedures involving oral mucous membrane contact.	A	A	O	A	Avoid direct mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Use pocket mask, ambu, etc.

*Eye protection worn to prevent the splattering of blood or other body fluids into the eyes must have side shields.

**Handwashing should be standard prior to any potential contact with patient.

***Masks/Goggles should be worn depending on patient's condition/symptoms. Protect yourself with mask if patient has cold/flu symptoms.

Developed by: Patricia A Skoraczewski
Director, Health and Safety Services
Memorial Medical Center, Ashland, WI

Approved by: Keith A Henry, MD
Physician Director
Infection Control/Employee Health

Updated 05-2004; 03-2010;
Reviewed by Northwood Tech Health Sciences Program Directors 10-10-2019;
Reviewed 07-2025