The Joint Commission

2024 PolicySource™ Behavioral Health Care and Human Services

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Table of Contents

- Some items in the Table of Contents are indicated as “updated” or “new.” This means that these policies and procedures (P&Ps) have been updated or created since the previous edition of *PolicySource*. These changes reflect updates in the Joint Commission standards and elements of performance for behavioral health care and human services accreditation. **Note:** A number of P&Ps have been updated due to changes in terminology. These are noted in orange in the Table of Contents and as “Terminology changes” in the chapter grids.
- Those items with a paperclip icon 📎 are not P&Ps themselves but supplementary materials or attachments for a particular P&P. Not every P&P has such attachments, but that does not prohibit someone using *PolicySource* to create their own ancillary materials for any of their own P&Ps.

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☒ **REQUIRES WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION**

* *See* Applicability Grids for applicable services and settings.

Infection Control During Construction Policy

[Logo]	**TITLE** Infection Control During Construction Policy		**IDENTIFICATION NUMBER** [Number]
ORGANIZATION(S) [Organization name]	**LEVEL** ☐ System ☐ Organization ☐ Division ☐ Department	**CATEGORY** ☐ Clinical ☐ Management ☐ Regulatory	**POSTING DATE** [MM/DD/YYYY] **EFFECTIVE DATE** [MM/DD/YYYY]
REVIEW CYCLE ☐ 1 year ☐ 3 years **LAST REVIEW DATE:** [MM/DD/YYYY]		**REPLACES** **TITLE:** Infection Control During Construction Policy **EFFECTIVE DATE(S):** [MM/DD/YYYY]	

POLICY STATEMENT

Construction, renovation, demolition, and general maintenance projects must be conducted in a way that minimizes the risk of spreading infection.

PURPOSE

To prevent the airborne spread of fungal spores and infectious particles to minimize the risk of harm and/or injury to susceptible individuals during construction.

SCOPE

Applies to all construction, renovation, demolition, and general maintenance activities for all occupancy levels, including but not limited to construction of new walls and rooms, carpeting or other flooring work, ceilings, and removal of casing.

DEFINITION

Susceptible individuals – Individuals served, staff, visitors, volunteers, and others whose health status puts them at increased risk of harm from infection from environmental sources.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The individual(s) responsible for the physical environment works with the individual(s) responsible for infection prevention and control (IC) and the individual(s) responsible for safety to oversee the selection and implementation of IC measures during a construction project.

PROCEDURES

Prior to the Start of the Project

The individual(s) responsible for the physical environment does the following:

1. Completes the Infection Control Measures Evaluation Worksheet.
2. Evaluates the following factors when completing the worksheet:
    - Job length
    - Impact on care, treatment, or services
    - Hazards of construction work
    - Hazards of construction methods
    - Construction separations
    - Ventilation pressure
    - Other controls
3. Scores each factor according to the system described on the worksheet.

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4. Provides the completed worksheet to the individual(s) responsible for IC.

The individual(s) responsible for IC does the following:

1. Reviews and signs off on the Infection Control Measures Evaluation Worksheet.
2. Evaluates necessary IC measures for the worksite, based on the scoring included on the worksheet.
3. Affirms use of any of the following IC measures, as appropriate to the identified risk level:

<u>High Risk</u>

- HEPA filter unit
- Negative pressure
- Outside exhaust
- Temporary airtight walls (slab to slab, one-hour rating)
- Sticky floor mats at worksite entrances and/or exits (one inside and one outside each entrance or exit)
- Daily HEPA vacuuming of the worksite
- Daily wet mopping of the worksite (performed by the contractor's staff)
- Sealed-off supply and return vents
- Daily removal of all trash, using covered containers
- Monitoring individuals served in the project area for infection
- Closing all doors to areas near the work area in which care, treatment, or services are provided
- Coveralls worn in all work areas and removed when leaving the worksite
- Identification of workers authorized to enter the worksite (for example, contractor-branded shirts or ID badges)

<u>Medium Risk</u>

- Temporary airtight walls or plastic sheeting (only to ceiling, if ceiling is intact)—to mitigate IC risks, not fire or smoke risks
- Sealed-off supply and return vents
- Sticky floor mats at worksite entrances and/or exits (one inside and one outside each entrance or exit)
- Daily HEPA vacuuming of the worksite
- Daily wet mopping of the worksite (performed by the contractor's staff)
- Daily removal of all trash
- Closing all doors near the worksite
- Identification of workers authorized to enter the worksite (for example, contractor-branded shirts or ID badges)

<u>Low Risk</u>

- Temporary plastic sheeting—to mitigate IC risks, not fire or smoke risks
- Daily trash removal
- Daily HEPA vacuuming of the worksite
- Closing all doors to the worksite
- Identification of workers authorized to enter the worksite (for example, contractor-branded shirts or ID badges)

<u>During the Project</u>

The individual(s) responsible for the physical environment performs the following activities:

1. Conducts weekly construction meetings to review and coordinate all projects.
2. Involves key stakeholders in these meetings, including but not limited to individual(s) representing the following areas:

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- Facilities management
- Security
- Safety
- Environmental services
- Infection prevention and control
- Architecture, engineering, and contracting
- Affected service areas

3. Oversees management of the worksite with respect to compliance with IC measures.
4. Maintains daily surveillance logs that include IC data.
5. Notifies the individual(s) responsible for IC of any incidents of IC noncompliance.

The individual(s) responsible for IC performs the following activities:

1. Participates in weekly construction meetings.
2. Assesses IC compliance at the worksite at least weekly.
3. Maintains an IC surveillance log that addresses the worksite.
4. Responds to any reported or observed incidents of IC noncompliance.

All staff members perform the following activities:

1. Participate in IC measures related to the construction project, as applicable.
2. Notify the individual(s) responsible for the physical environment if they observe construction activities taking place without appropriate IC measures.

Upon Completion of the Project

The individual(s) responsible for the physical environment performs the following:

1. Informs the individual(s) responsible for environmental services at least one week ahead of time.
2. Oversees the cleanup of the worksite, including the following:
    - Vacuuming the worksite with HEPA-filtered vacuums
    - Wet mopping the area with disinfectant
3. Ensures the removal of air vent blockage.
4. Inspects the project area before removing barriers.
5. Supervises the removal of barrier materials to minimize the spread of dust and debris.
6. Coordinates the disposal of construction waste, including barrier materials, by bagging waste and transporting it in covered carts.

The individual(s) responsible for IC performs the following:

1. Assists the individual(s) responsible for the physical environment in cleanup and waste disposal processes.
2. Evaluates the project area for IC concerns after cleanup and waste disposal is complete.

Individual(s) responsible for environmental services conducts a final cleaning and disinfection of the project area after barrier and waste removal.

REFERENCES

Joint Commission Standard EC.02.06.05, EP 2. When planning for demolition, construction, renovation, or general maintenance, the organization conducts a preconstruction risk assessment for air quality requirements, infection control, utility requirements, noise, vibration, and other hazards that affect care, treatment, or services.

Joint Commission Standard EC.02.06.05, EP 3. The organization takes action based on its assessment to minimize risks during demolition, construction, renovation, or general maintenance.

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* *See* Applicability Grids for applicable services and settings.

ATTACHMENT

Infection Control Measures Evaluation Worksheet (included in *PolicySource*)

APPROVAL

NAME AND CREDENTIALS [Name and Credentials] **TITLE** [Title]	**NAME AND CREDENTIALS** [Name and Credentials] **TITLE** [Title]
SIGNATURE	**DATE** [MM/DD/YYYY]
SIGNATURE	**DATE** [MM/DD/YYYY]

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