



Every MCFRS clinician has received training in blood borne pathogens, standard practice(s) relative to personal protection and body substance isolation, and how to engage routine equipment decontamination. This training and the products (e.g. decontamination solutions) you are afforded at the worksite level should be sufficient to mitigate most instances you encounter a patient with a highly transmittable disease.

As with any patient we encounter with a suspected or known, highly transmittable disease:

- Actively engage with facility staff who are relinquishing patient care to you. Ask them: “Are there any special precautions you recommend we take relative to personal (or patient) protection and body isolation?”
- You are encouraged to adjust your levels of protection to meet the circumstances. Example: If the patient is coughing excessively and air droplets are a known or perceived form of transmission, wear a mask and/or place one on your patient.
- Change gloves often if your hands are moving from one environment to another (e.g. patient room to transport unit to receiving facility).
- Attempt to limit equipment contact with patient unless medically necessary. If you don’t need the equipment, avoid bringing it into a potentially infectious environment (e.g. patient room). If you must bring the equipment and/or gear into said environment, try and limit proximity to the patient (e.g. BLS bag doesn’t need to sit on the patient’s bed). If equipment contact occurs, decontaminate in accordance with your training.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Should you encounter the rare situation where you are unsure whether to elevate your level of precautions, attempt to reach out to the on-duty EMS Duty Officer. If he/she does not have an answer, it is likely they know where to secure it.
- Upon arrival at the receiving facility, immediately notify staff of the known (or potential) existence of a highly transmittable disease process, including from where the patient came. Pre-transport notifications may assist receiving facilities with preparing for patient isolation. However, always be very cognizant of what you say, particularly “over the air.”