**Welcome to the**

**GREEN ZONE!**



Stay in the **Green Zone** when your patient is in Contact Isolation Precautions and…

* In the zone you will not have to wear PPE to say hello or ask a simple question
* Your patient will see your smiling face more often
* Our patients, visitors and other employees will know you respect the need for precautions

*If it’s not in the zone, it’s contaminated.*

PSFHS is going GREEN! Green Tape, available at the nursing station will be used to mark off a “safe zone” just inside the room of any patient in **contact isolation** precautions only. This Green Zone does not require PPE. The safe zone will extend into the room, remaining a minimum of 3 feet from the patient. There are three shapes of rooms on 11.

* Open square. Green Tape will be placed the width of the door into the room to the counter edge.
* “Hall” entrance. Green Tape will be placed at the fold/crease in the linoleum.
* “Hall” entrance. Green Tape will be placed at the end of the bathroom door opening.

This idea originated at Trinity Medical Center, a 504-bed magnet hospital system in the Quad Cities on the Iowa/Illinois border.

There are several advantages to this system . . .

* It saves time, effort and supplies – without endangering you or other patients. Since we’ve excluded Airborne Precautions, the pathogens we worry about aren’t flying across the room.
* Patients feel less isolated because nurses and providers are more likely to poke their heads in with a greeting when they don’t have to gown up. It increases patient safety when you look in the room, especially of a medicated or confused patient.
* Patients and families will know that you respect the need for precautions when you stay within the green zone.

. . . and there are precautions.

* Once you need to step out of the green box into the room, you must perform hand hygiene and put on PPE, as appropriate.
* Stepping out of the zone without the required PPE sends the wrong message to the patient and family.

**→ RNs or CNAs will put the tape on the floor. The RN is responsible for checking for accuracy if this is delegated to the CNA. If the tape becomes loose, please replace.**

**→ Environmental Services staff will remove the tape when they perform a terminal clean.**

**Questions?** Contact Infection Control (Joan Strauch or Sonja Anic).

**Coordinators of project:** Deb Nussdorfer, RN x 2886 Wendy Lowery RN, Aimee Doman RN, Brenda Molencamp RN