

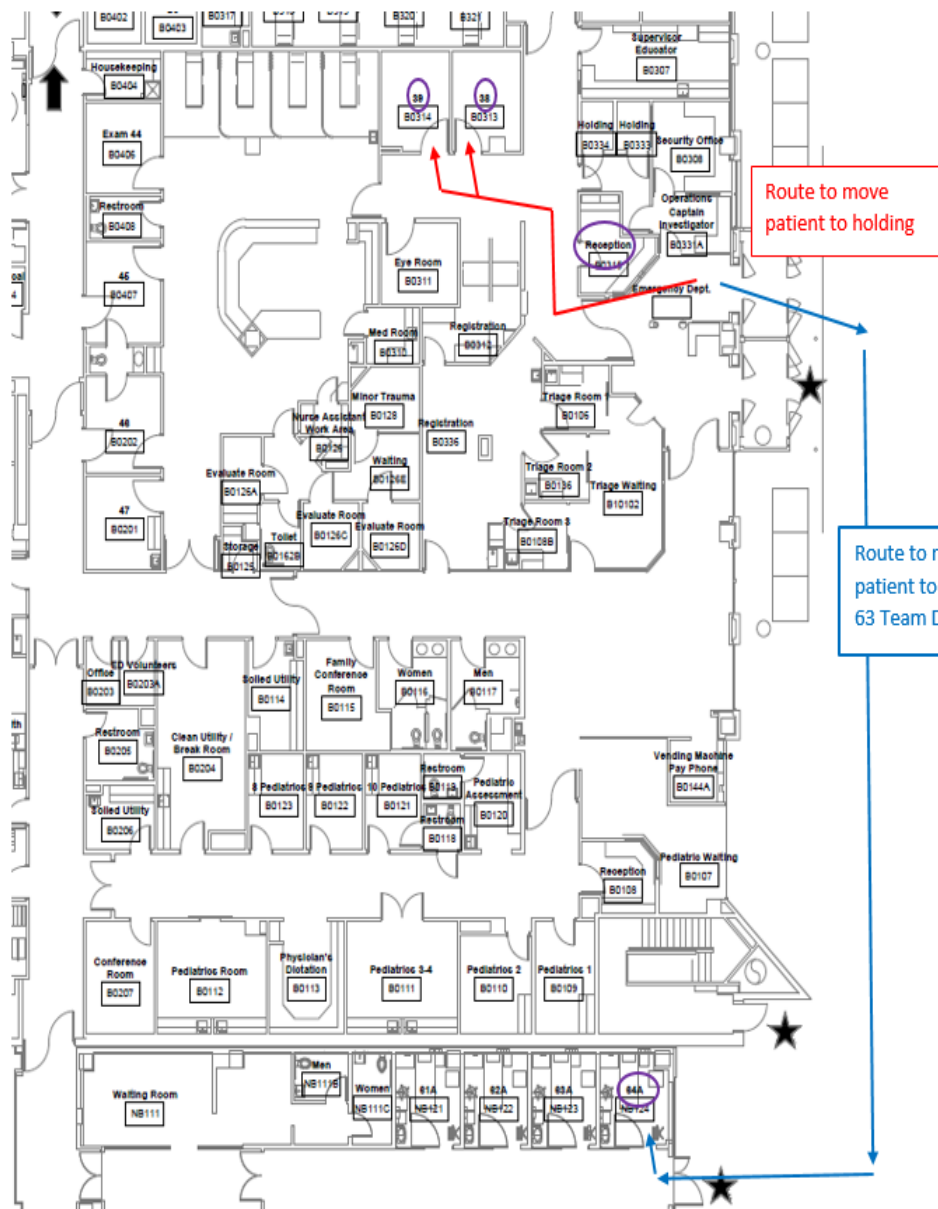
Special Pathogens Response Center (SPARC) SOP: Isolation of a patient in the Emergency Department with a Suspected or Confirmed Special Pathogen	
Subject	This procedure will define a process for the safe isolation of a patient presenting with a known or suspected special pathogen in the Emergency Department (ED) at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill and is not a direct admission to the Special Pathogens Unit.
Responsibility	All staff working in the Special Pathogens Unit (SPU) and the Emergency Department (ED) are responsible for understanding and conducting the procedures described in this SOP.
Procedure	Identify, Isolate, and Inform: Patient presenting via Registration Desk in the UNC Hospital's Chapel Hill ED who meets the suspect case definition for a special pathogen (symptoms plus travel history and/or contact with someone who has tested positive for a special pathogen): • Ask the patient to step to the side, away from others • Provide the patient with a mask (if able to wear an N95, give the patient one) if they do not already have one on, ensuring it covers the face and nose • Don gown, gloves, N95 + face shield to escort the patient to a private room • Place the patient in Team D, Room 64 if available • If this room is unavailable, place the patient in a private room with the door closed, preferably a room that is an Airborne Infection Isolation Room • Room 4 is the next preferred room • Clear the room of any unnecessary supplies, leaving only the patient stretcher, monitor, and trash can. • Place an entry log on the door for all individuals who come into contact with the patient, or enter the patient's room, to fill out. • If no rooms are available, temporarily place the patient in the EKG (Room 38) or pelvic room (Room 39) in front of Team C with the door closed • When Room 64 becomes available, move the patient to that room utilizing the Containment Wrap method. Refer to this diagram for safely moving patient. Security should walk ahead to clear the hallways. The patient can be transported via stretcher or wheelchair. • Place bedside commode with lid in the room with the patient and provide red trash bags for lining the commode. • The patient should be instructed not to leave the room. • Activate ED Notification Pathway (in High Consequence Pathogens: Preparedness and Response Plan) • Page Infection Prevention on-call immediately • Retrieve the Special Pathogen kit from the storage closet outside in the ambulance bay (green container) • Special pathogen PPE must be donned before entering the patient room Patient Presenting to the ED with a suspected/known special pathogen via ambulance Activate ED Notification Pathway (in High Consequence Pathogen Policy) • Page Infection Prevention on-call immediately • The ambulance will park in front of the exterior door to Team D, next to the main ED patient entrance

- The patient remains in the ambulance until a private room is ready for placement unless the patient requires immediate care.
- EMS will transport the patient to Room 64 in Team D via the external team D entrance.
 - Place an [entry log](#) on the door for all individuals who come into contact with the patient, or enter the patient's room, to fill out.
- The patient will immediately be placed in the room with the door closed
- Retrieve Special Pathogen kit from storage closet in the ambulance bay
- Special pathogen PPE must be donned before entering patient room

Concern for a Special Pathogen in a Patient Already Roomed

- All staff should exit the room if not properly donned in special pathogen PPE, perform hand hygiene, and wait for further instruction.
- Activate [ED Notification Pathway](#) (in High Consequence Pathogen Policy)
- Page the Infection Preventionist on-call immediately
- If the patient is not in a private room, have Charge RN work on plans to move the patient
- If the patient is moved, the room he/she was previously in will need to be terminally cleaned while in special pathogen PPE
- Retrieve the Special Pathogen kit (green box) from the storage closet outside in the ambulance bay
- Special Pathogen PPE must be donned before entering the patient room
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- An [entry log](#) of all individuals who have come into contact with the patient should be kept and sent to Infection Prevention for appropriate contact tracing

Patient Routes



References

Guide for Clinicians Evaluating an Ill Person for VHF or Other High Consequence Disease. CDC. (2024, May 13). [www.cdc.gov. Guide for Clinicians Evaluating an Ill Person for VHF or Other High-Consequence Disease | Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers \(VHFs\) | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/guidelines-clinicians/guide-for-clinicians-evaluating-an-ill-person-for-vhf-or-other-high-consequence-disease-viral-hemorrhagic-fevers-vhfs-cdc)

Related Policies

Handling Liquid Waste SOP
Containment Wrap and Transport SOP
[High Consequence Pathogens: Preparedness and Response Plan](#)

Responsible

UNC SPARC Program Manager
UNC SPARC Medical Director
UNC Hospitals Emergency Department leadership

