

Special Pathogen Response Center (SPARC) SOP: Movement within the high-risk area during the care of a patient with suspected or confirmed special pathogen	
Subject	This procedure will define a process for moving within a high-risk area of the Special Pathogen Unit (SPU) during the care of a patient with known or suspected special pathogen infection within UNC Hospital.
Responsibility	All staff working in the SPU are responsible for understanding and conducting the procedures described in this SOP.
Supplies	PPE for special pathogens Bedside table
Procedure	Movement within a high-risk area during the care of a patient who meets the Suspect or Confirmed case definition for a Special Pathogen: • A risk assessment should take place before entering a patient's room with a suspected or confirmed special pathogen. There are situations in which a provider should not enter: ○ No PPE available Wear appropriate PPE for the direct care of or when in the same room as a suspect or confirmed patient. The high-risk area of the SPU will be denoted by red tape and stanchions. This area, including the stanchions, is considered a high-risk zone, and is restricted to those on the SPARC team in appropriate PPE. The stanchions are part of the high-risk area. Staff will follow all PPE donning and doffing procedures for the high-risk zone. A table within the high-risk zone will be used to transfer items into the high-risk zone for use in the patient's room. Staff from outside the high-risk zone will use this table to put items requested by the care team (e.g., medications, patient care supplies, meal trays, etc.). Place items on a clean chux or inside a clean bucket. The chux and bucket are considered high risk and the table is considered a clean area. A Resource Nurse in PPE (gown, gloves, mask, and eye protection) may be needed outside of the room to facilitate transfer of materials during a procedure, code, or when more help is needed. Laboratory Specimens Laboratory specimens will be removed from the room and placed in a clean, rigid container to be transported to the SPARC laboratory. • Once the specimen is obtained and labeled, the staff inside the room will wipe the tubes containing blood with an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe. Discard the wipe in the red bag trash. • An assistant outside the patient room will hold open the biohazard lab bag.

	• The bag will be sealed immediately, and external surfaces wiped down with an EPA-registered disinfectant. • Place the biohazard lab bag into a second bag, which will be sealed and disinfected. • A staff member will be outside the patient's door with a clean, rigid, leak-proof container. ○ A chux, or other absorbent material, will be placed at the bottom of the container. • Place the specimen in a rigid leak-proof container labeled as biohazard and disinfected prior to transport. • The specimen will be taken to the SPARC laboratory for processing • If a specimen requires send-out for additional testing, it will be packaged according to Category A specimen packaging instructions in the SPARC laboratory. It will be escorted to McLendon Clinical Microbiology lab for send out to the State Lab for Public Health (SLPH) for additional testing and/or send out to CDC. This packaging must be performed by a technologist trained to package Category A shipping. (See McLendon Clinical Laboratories Packaging and Shipping of Biological Specimens External to the Medical Center policy) • Please refer to the Specimen Collection and Transport SOP for more information. Meal Trays Patient meal trays will be delivered to the unit on a disposable tray with disposable eating utensils and disposable plates, bowls, and/or cups. If a tray is delivered with a reusable item, it will still be disposed of in the patient's red bag biohazard trash in the room. The patient meal trays will be placed onto the table in the high-risk zone to be passed into the patient's room.
References	
Related Policies	PPE Donning for Special Pathogens PPE Doffing for Special Pathogens Specimen Collection and Transport SOP High Consequence Pathogens: Preparedness and Response Plan
Responsible	UNC SPARC Program Manager UNC SPARC Medical Director