

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Isolation Ward.</h2>	Effective:	September 19, 2006
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		Updated by:	Dr Jonathan Naylor

Purpose:

1.1 This list of isolation ward safety considerations is intended to present general safety concepts that can be adapted to any isolation unit. Zoonotic agents or hazardous biologic agents can pose a public or animal health threat. In addition, there is always some potential for accidents to occur when taking samples for bacterial cultures, fecal material, urine, body fluids or blood from hospitalized patients. Students have a right to be informed about hazards they may encounter while pursuing their education and what measures to take to protect themselves and patients. Students who must work in areas with hazardous materials (e.g., contaminated/infected tissues) must receive instruction and protective equipment. Injuries from cut glass or needles are also possible. Proper techniques and proper disposal of sharp materials is the best means to curb such problems.

Refer also to the **Hazardous material information and training policy**.

2. Scope:

2.1. These guidelines apply to all technicians, students and faculty working at Ross University-School of Veterinary Medicine in the Isolation Ward.

3.1 Access/Exit

- Access to the Isolation Ward is limited to staff, faculty, and students directly involved with case management of hospitalized patients.
- A double door system and footbath are implemented to reduce the possibility of cross contamination.
- Appropriate disposable gloves, gowns and booties are required within the isolation facility. Refer also to **Protective Clothing Policy**. These should be discarded as the facility is exited.
- The use of gloves is required for sample collection (e.g. when working with dog and cat feces).
- Cleaning is mandatory when contamination with biologic materials occurs. Cleaning solutions, disinfectants and paper towels are provided. This includes soap for cleaning hands.
- All cleaning agents' containers must be properly labeled.
- Glass objects (i.e. ampoules) and needles must be placed in the appropriate sharps containers for later disposal. Refer also to **Procedures for handling syringes, needles and catheters** and **Guidelines for disposal of sharps, biological and medical waste**.

- Spills of biohazardous materials should be reported and cleaned up by the proper personnel.
- Disposal of feces, urine and other material contaminated with potentially biohazardous material has to be performed in a proper manner using the red biohazard containers.

3.2 Safety Facilities and Protective Equipment

- Isolation ward workers must familiarize themselves with the closest emergency shower and eyewash.
- Refer to “Emergency Eyewash and Shower Testing Policy” for guidelines and testing of eyewashes and showers.

3.3 Drugs Storage and Handling

- Drug storage areas should be neat, orderly, and clearly identified.
- All containers should be labeled with chemical name, type (alcohol, scrub solution, etc.), and hazard warning.
- Drug storage areas should be equipped with doors or shelf restraints to prevent material from falling off shelves. Drugs in glass bottles, controlled drugs, or other hazardous substances must be properly stored.

3.4 Electrical

- All electrical systems must be installed according to accepted codes. All work on building electrical systems must be performed by O&M.
- Extension cords should not be used as substitutes for permanent wiring. Power outlet strips are considered extension cords. If extension cords are used in permitted manner (such as for computer equipment or for temporary laboratory set ups that will be used for less than six months), they must be approved and labeled by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and be three-wire grounded.
- Only qualified departmental technicians specifically authorized by the supervisor should repair and install portable electrical equipment.
- All electrical equipment with exposed metal parts must be grounded.
- Special precautions should be taken around water. Electrical outlets generally do not have ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection. While working with flammable liquids use extra care to avoid contact with electrical outlets or devices.
- Household-type refrigerators may be used for storing patient’s food, aqueous solutions, pharmaceuticals, and nonflammable or non explosive materials.
- Electrical cords must be three-wire grounded and in good condition.
See RUSVM Safety Web “Electrical Safety Guidelines” for more information.

3.5 Fire Extinguishers

- The Ross Safety & Security Department establishes specific requirements for number and type of fire extinguishers based on hazards.
- Ross Safety & Security Department should check fire extinguishers annually. Each department should inspect them monthly.

- Fire extinguishers should be fully charged. If you discharge an extinguisher, even partially, notify the Ross Safety & Security Department immediately.
- Fire extinguishers must be accessible, visible and clearly identified.

3.6 Training

- All employees must be trained in all safety procedures, including:
 - The building evacuation plan
 - Body fluids spill cleanup
 - Cleaning and disinfection of the ward
 - Use of the eyewash and shower
- All safety procedures must be enforced to be effective.
- RUSVM SafetyWeb outlines requirements and responsibilities for implementation of safety management programs.
See RUSVM SafetyWeb “Safety Training Tips” for additional information.

3.7 Miscellaneous

- Monitoring devices must be placed in safe places and examined periodically to assess their good functioning.
- Fluid pumps must be stored in safe locations, and examined periodically to assess their function.
- The ward refrigerator is to be used to store those pharmaceuticals that need to be maintained at a selected low temperature.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the isolation unit.

For additional information, contact the RUSVM Director of Safety & Security at 465-4161 ext, 191 or lnolan@rossvet.edu.kn.