

Tuberculosis Respiratory Isolation Restrictions for Community Settings



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Should respiratory isolation restrictions (RIR) be used?

RIR should be used for patients with infectious TB. RIR is NOT appropriate for non-infectious TB.

What level of RIR should be used?

Least restrictive level of RIR should always be used. Always discuss with patient and base on individual considerations

When should RIR be reassessed?

Specific RIR levels and duration of restrictions should be reassessed routinely (at least weekly) and may be modified based on individual considerations and changing circumstances.

When should RIR be discontinued?

RIR may be discontinued if patient has been on *effective therapy* for at least five days with certain exceptions.

Transmission Risk Factors:

- Pulmonary or laryngeal disease
- Cough
- Ventilation/proximity
- Cavitory disease
- Sputum AFB grade
- Presence of high-risk contacts
- Treatment not started

RIR Levels

Extensive RIR: Most restrictive level. Patient remains at location without high-risk persons. When patient leaves the primary site of RIR (such as for a healthcare visit), additional measures to reduce TB transmission risk may be warranted, including but not limited to, personal protective equipment (for close contacts, face masks for the PWTB, and efforts for improved ventilation. Visitors not living in the residence should be avoided.

Moderate RIR: Tailored restrictions targeted at specific concerns. Patient spends majority of time at an agreed-upon location, such as a home or residence. Patient may leave the location for most outdoor activities and some indoor activities deemed essential, as determined through discussion with public health department officials.

None: Patients have no restrictions and may engage in daily activities as usual, irrespective of setting or potential contacts

Effective Therapy

- Multidrug regimen (i.e. RIPE) with appropriate dosages for patient weight
- Tolerating medications
- Doses given via Directly Observed Therapy (DOT)
- Reasonable assurance drug resistance is not a concern
- Clinical improvement noted

Guidance applies to community settings only. Do not use for healthcare, congregate or other high-risk settings.

