

# JAM Session 12: Clear the Air: Using Airborne Infection Isolation Correctly (Part 1)

## Why This Matters

Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms (AIIRs) are critical in preventing the spread of airborne infectious diseases such as tuberculosis (TB), measles, chickenpox (varicella), and COVID-19.

Proper verification and monitoring ensure the safety of patients, staff, and visitors.

## How Do I Know if the Room is Working Properly?

Before placing a patient requiring airborne isolation, verify that all AIIR equipment is operational.

### Equipment Verification includes:

- ◆ Biological Ultraviolet (BUV) Equipment (located next to the AC thermostat) must be turned ON
- ◆ Reverse-Flow Fan Filter Unit (ceiling-mounted above patient bed) amber pilot light illuminated, Magnehelic pressure reading 0.5–1.5 in. w.c.
- ◆ Accustat Control (above the patient room door jamb in the anteroom)

### Door closed:

- ⇒ Reads negative (–) 0.01 in. w.c. or lower
- ⇒ Green light illuminated

### Door opened (cross-check):

- ⇒ Pressure increases to positive (+) 0.01 or greater
- ⇒ Red light illuminated
- ⇒ High-pitched alarm audible

If this sequence does not occur, contact Facilities Maintenance (FM) immediately and submit a work order.

### PASS / FAIL DETERMINATION

- ◆ PASS: Room may be used for a patient requiring airborne infection isolation
- ◆ FAIL: Contact FM via work order. FM clearance is required prior to patient occupancy

All verification results must be documented on the AI Room Monitoring Log.

### MONITORING & DOCUMENTATION

- ◆ Assigned staff must monitor room pressure regularly
- ◆ AI Room Monitoring Logs must be completed twice daily
- ◆ When the system is not in use:
  - ◆ Check the “Not in Use” section
  - ◆ Document “NA” in the negative pressure columns

### DOOR MANAGEMENT

- ◆ Maintain negative pressure by keeping the patient door closed at all times.
- ◆ Minimize traffic in and out of the room

### POST-DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

After patient discharge:

- ◆ DO NOT TURN OFF the AIIR system
- ◆ Keep the door closed for 45–60 minutes to allow air exchanges
- ◆ Notify FM for system reset and mandatory filter inspection or replacement.
- ◆ If staff must enter the vacant AIIR before clearance time, an N95 respirator must be worn.