

PORTABLE HEPA UNITS

Last Updated: 1-2022

INDICATIONS FOR USE

- The purpose of the portable HEPA unit is to filter out airborne pathogens (e.g., TB, SARS-CoV-2) from the air to protect employees, other patients, and visitors.
- Airborne pathogens can spread:
 - from patients with active pulmonary disease if they are not wearing a surgical mask.
 - during aerosol producing surgical/invasive procedures when the tissue/organ is infected.
- A portable HEPA unit is needed in a room any time when:
 - there is the potential for aerosols to be produced in a non-airborne infection isolation room (AII).
 - the room does not have negative airflow and dedicated or HEPA-filtered exhaust (non-AII room).
 - the room does not achieve negative pressure (i.e., an AII room that fails tissue test).
- Respiratory protection is still needed by anyone entering the room.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Follow these instructions prior to patient's arrival if patient's isolation status is known ahead of time. In all other cases, follow these instructions as soon as possible after the patient is placed on [Airborne Infection Isolation or Special Airborne Isolation](#):

- Keep all doors to the room closed as much as possible.
- Place the portable HEPA unit at maximum distance across the room from the door.
- Make sure that operating panel faces room and is unobstructed.
- Do not use if filter light is on (see troubleshooting below).
- Continue running the portable HEPA unit the entire time the patient is on [Airborne Infection Isolation/Special Airborne Isolation](#) in that room.
- Run the portable HEPA unit for at least 30 minutes after the patient leaves the room if that patient is still on [Airborne Infection Isolation/Special Airborne Isolation](#) when they leave. During this waiting period, respiratory protection should be worn by everyone entering room. New patients should not be placed in the room during the waiting period.

ORDERING and MAINTENANCE

- Wipe down the outside of this unit with hospital-grade disinfectant after use.
- Portable HEPA units are maintained by Clinical Engineering. Contact 919-681-2525 for any questions regarding the maintenance of the HEPA units.
- Portable HEPA units may be ordered from Equipment Distribution through the Service Now portal.

For immediate needs or emergent situations call Equipment Distribution at 919-681-2072

TROUBLESHOOTING

- If the unit is not running properly or if the filter light comes on, do not use the unit. Tag as "out-of-service" and return the unit to Equipment Distribution.

REFERENCES

CDC NIOSH. *Expedient Patient Isolation Rooms: Engineering Controls to Reduce Airborne, Droplet and Contact Exposures During Epidemic/Pandemic Response*. April 2020.

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/healthcare/engcontrolsolutions/expedient-patient-isolation.html>