

Text below is an excerpt from NYC Health Department document:



New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and
New York State Department of Health
Guidelines for
Management of a Suspect Case of Smallpox in Acute Care Hospitals
in New York City
2002

Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) light may also be effective in reducing the number of viable organisms if there is appropriate air mixing and placement in the room. It is critical to ensure safe placement and prevent exposure to UV irradiation (e.g., shielded fixtures to prevent eye or skin exposure among patients, visitor or staff). As with any environmental control measure, appropriate maintenance is critical. Additional guidance regarding HEPA filtration and UV light can be found in the Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Health-Care Facilities, 1994 (October 28, 1994) MMWR RR-13:81-95).

G) Emergency department, infection control and plant management/engineering staff need to understand the air flow characteristics of the emergency department, assess potential risks and determine the most effective strategies in their facility to minimize the likelihood of smallpox transmission, should a suspect case be identified. The majority of emergency departments do not recirculate air to other parts of the facility. If air does recirculate to other parts of the facility, infection control and plant management/engineering staff should know what areas of the hospital might potentially be affected as well as assess ahead of time the relative benefits and risks of shutting down the ventilation system, in response to a suspect smallpox casepatient.

(Hospitals may consider retrofitting the HVAC systems in these areas with HEPA filtration units and/or installing UVGI units.)

http://gnyha.org/eprc/general/nbc/smallpox/20021129_Encl_1_Hosp_Guide.pdf