

Infection Prevention – Live by It: Guideline Overview*

Hand Hygiene



Surface Disinfection



Personal Protective Equipment

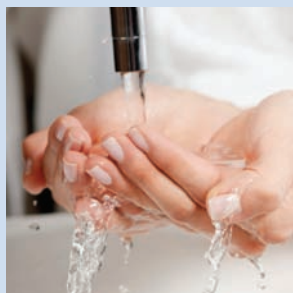


A quick reference to current infection control guidelines

By following the key elements in the “Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings,” caregivers, patients, family members and visitors can work together to help prevent the transmission of infections in healthcare settings.

Along with adhering to vaccination recommendations for healthcare workers, following guidelines on hand washing, personal protective equipment, respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette and surface disinfection are vital to the success of all infection prevention programs.

To help your facility maintain compliance with the recommended practices for infection control, the following is a brief reference of the most recent guideline for isolation precautions:



Hand Hygiene

- Cleanse before and after direct patient contact and following glove removal
- For visibly contaminated hands wash hands with antimicrobial soap and water
- For no visible contamination, decontaminate with an

alcohol-based hand rub or antimicrobial soap and water

- Wash hands with antimicrobial soap and water if contact with spores is likely to have occurred



Environmental Precautions: Surface Disinfection

- Remove organic material from critical and semi-critical instrument/devices using recommended cleaning agents before disinfection and sterilization process
- Cleaning and disinfection

recommended to include computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) used in patient care

- Provide patients on Transmission-Based Precautions with dedicated noncritical medical equipment
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are likely to be contaminated including those in close proximity to the patient and frequently-touched surfaces in the patient care environment
- Use EPA-registered disinfectants that have microbicidal (i.e. killing) activity



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Gloves should be:
 - Worn when touching blood, body fluids, secretions, or contaminated items
 - Selected with fit and durability appropriate to the task
 - Changed during patient

care if the hands move from a contaminated body-site to a clean body-site and between patients

- Donned last, if worn in combination with other PPE

- Gowns should be:

- Worn to protect skin and prevent soiling/contamination of clothing during patient care
- Removed when soiled and hand hygiene performed before leaving patient environment

- Facial protection—including masks, shields, goggles, or respirators—should be:

- Used to protect mucous membranes during patient care that is likely to splash/spray blood, body fluids, secretions and excretions
- Worn around patients infected with an agent for which respiratory protection is recommended; wear a face shield to fully cover the front and sides of the face, a mask with attached shield, or a mask and goggles (in addition to gloves and gown)

- Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette

- Educate staff, patients and visitors regarding control measures to contain respiratory secretions, including coughing and/or sneezing
- Provide tissues, non-touch receptacles and post signs to cover nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Perform hand hygiene following respiratory secretion contact

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