



## Infection Control and Corporate Compliance Issues

**GOAL:** To understand Infection Control and explain Corporate Compliance issues as they relate to your Employee job description.

**OBJECTIVES:** Upon completion of this session, the Employee will:

- Understand the role of Infection Control in Home Care.
- Be aware of the infection control policy and universal precautions.
- Describe potential risk of exposure to tuberculosis and reason for initial screening.
- Demonstrate proper hand washing technique.
- Understand Seniors Helping Seniors Care's Standards of Conduct as they relate to Corporate Compliance.

### Standard Precautions

"Standard precautions," as defined by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are a set of precautions designed to prevent transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and other blood borne pathogens when providing first aid or health care. Under universal precautions, blood and certain body fluids of all patients are considered potentially infectious for HIV, HBV and other blood borne pathogens.

To read more details, visit [the CDC website](#).

### The Importance of Hand Washing

According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, hand washing or use of alcohol-based hand rubs has been shown to reduce overall infection rates.

As an alternative to traditional hand washing with soap and water, the Centers for Disease Control is recommending the use of waterless (alcohol-based) hand rubs by healthcare professionals for hand hygiene.

Wash your hands with plain soap and water; or with antimicrobial soap and water if:

- your hands are visibly soiled (dirty)
- hands are visibly contaminated with blood or body fluids
- before eating
- after using the restroom
- wash all surfaces thoroughly -- fingers, between fingers, palms, wrists, back of hands

Use a waterless hand-rub for routinely cleaning your hands:

- before having direct contact with patients
  - after having direct contact with a patient's skin
  - after having contact with body fluids, wounds or broken skin
  - after touching equipment or furniture near the patient
  - after removing gloves
  - Do not use a waterless hand-rub when hands are visibly soiled or contaminated with blood or body fluids.

According to the Center for Disease Control, waterless hand rubs significantly reduce the number of microorganisms on skin, are fast acting and cause less skin irritation. When using waterless (alcohol-based) rubs, apply product to the palm of one hand and rub hands together, covering all surfaces of hands and fingers, until hands are dry. Waterless hand rubs are well suited for hygienic hand disinfection for the following reasons:

- optimal antimicrobial spectrum (active against all bacteria and most clinically important viruses, yeasts, and fungi)
- no wash basin necessary for use and easy availability at bedside
- no microbial contamination of health-care workers' clothing
- rapidity of action.

More than 20 published studies prove alcohol-based hand rubs are more effective than soap in reducing the number of bacteria on hands. Waterless hand rubs contain skin conditioners (emollients) that help prevent drying effects. Nurses who routinely cleaned their hands between patients by using a modern alcohol-based hand rub had less skin irritation and dryness than nurses who washed their hands with soap and water.

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

Personal Protective Equipment use involves specialized clothing or equipment worn by staff for protection against infectious materials. The selection of PPE is based on the nature of the interaction and potential for exposure to blood, body fluids or infectious agents.

**Gloves:** Wear gloves when there is potential contact with blood, body fluids, non-intact *skin or contaminated equipment*.

- Wear gloves that fit appropriately
- Do not wear the same pair of gloves more than once
- Do not wash gloves for the purpose of reuse
- Perform hand hygiene before and immediately after removal of gloves.

### **Cough Etiquette**

Always cough and sneeze into your elbow. "Batman Style!"