

Preventing Infection

During your stay in the hospital, you will be living closely with others and sharing equipment. Germs are spread in healthcare facilities by direct contact from person to person and on shared equipment. Since germs can cause an infection, you need to know how to protect yourself.

Clean your hands:

Before:

- providing care to yourself or others
- eating or feeding others
- touching your eyes, nose or mouth

Every time you enter or leave:

- the hospital
- a patient care area
- a patient's room, the NICU or Critical Care Areas

After you:

- cough, sneeze or blow your nose
- use or help someone to the bathroom
- change your baby's diaper
- use equipment shared by others

It is expected that health care providers clean their hands before they touch you. Don't be shy, please remind them.

Staying in a private room

Some infectious diseases need certain precautions to prevent their spread. Some examples include tuberculosis, chickenpox, diarrhea and antibiotic resistant organisms (AROs) such as MRSA and VRE.

You may have a room of your own or share a room with someone with the same infection. Your healthcare providers will wear a gown, and gloves while performing care. It all depends on the type of protection that is needed.

Visitors

Please tell your friends and family not to visit if they are feeling sick or unwell. Visitors also have to follow precautions.

When visiting a patient in isolation:

- Put on the personal protective equipment as shown by the sign on the door such as a mask, gown and gloves
- Place your coats/belongings just inside the isolation room. Do not place personal items on the bed, bedside table or counter by the sink.
- Limit visitors to 2 visitors at any one time. Adult visitors must be responsible for and supervise any child visitor. Child visitors must be big enough to fit into gown and/or gloves. For the safety of both patients and visitors, the nursing staff may have to restrict visiting.
- Limit what you handle in the room. If another patient needs help, call a nurse. Do not remove anything from the room without speaking to the nurse first – including meal trays.
- Remove gown and gloves and place them in the containers provided and clean your hands, before leaving the room.
- Do not go to shared patient areas, the kitchen or ice machine. Ask staff for help.
- Avoid eating or drinking in a patient's room.
- Do not use patient's bathroom.

Please talk with the nursing staff if you have any concerns.

Adherence to Infection Prevention and Control measures by staff and visitors is required to prevent the spread of infection.

**Stop the spread of germs and infection.
Clean your hands.**



This fact sheet provides basic general information only and is to be used as a quick guide, not as a complete resource on the subject. If you have any further questions, ask Infection Prevention & Control or your health care provider.