

Infection Control

Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare 2019

Infection prevention and control uses a risk management approach to minimise or prevent the transmission of infection

Infection prevention and control practices that must be used at all times for all patients in all situations.

- apply to all patients regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infection status.
- Hand hygiene
 - Washing hands with soap or using alcohol-based hand rubs that contain between 60% and 80% v/v ethanol or equivalent should be used for all routine hand hygiene practices.
 - before touching a patient
 - before a procedure
 - after a procedure or body substance exposure risk
 - after touching a patient
 - after touching a patient's surroundings.
- The use of gloves should not be considered an alternative to performing hand hygiene. Gloves must be changed between patients and after every episode of individual care.
- Use of face masks may protect from droplets (small drops) when a person coughs, speaks or sneezes
- Routine care, cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces
 - Clean frequently touched surfaces with detergent solution/disinfectant at least daily, when visibly soiled and after every known contamination.
 - Clean general surfaces and fittings when visibly soiled and immediately after spillage.
 - Toys and play therapy equipment shared between children where possible:
 - Are made of non-porous, wipeable, smooth material suitable for cleaning (e.g. plastic, metal, lacquered wood)
 - Are easy to clean and undamaged
 - Do not retain water or moisture.
 - Toys and play therapy equipment must be cleaned before and after use with warm water or sanitiser, then allowing the surface to dry completely.
 - The same wipe should not be used to clean multiple toys and play therapy equipment.
 - Ensure all surfaces of the toy or equipment are cleaned.
- All staff will complete infection control training on an annual basis
 - From 2025 training requirements will be updated to
 - <https://nhhi.southrock.com/cgi-bin-secure/Home.cgi?msecs=1723007946892>
 - Basics of hand washing (support coordinators and administration staff)
 - Basics of prevention and infection control (Ots and AHAs)
- Audits will be carried out to ensure staff are aware of infection control procedures.