INTENT / PURPOSE

To protect patients, residents, clients, staff and visitors across all programs within Fraser Health from transmitting and/or acquiring infections by following appropriate hand hygiene practices.

- Hand hygiene is universally accepted as the single most important practice for preventing the spread of infection.
- The hands of healthcare providers (HCPs) are the most common mode of transmission of pathogens to patients, residents and clients.
- In Canada, healthcare associated infections (HAI) kill 8,000 to 12,000 people every year.
- Global research indicates that hand hygiene improvements could potentially reduce HAI rates by 30% - 50%.
- Proper hand hygiene, when demonstrated by leaders, has been shown to positively influence the compliance of others by up to 70%.

Fraser Health is committed to creating and sustaining a Culture of Safety:

- A culture of safety equally values the safety of staff and patients.
- Patient safety and staff safety are inseparably linked. By supporting safe and healthy staff, we support quality patient care.
- Fraser Health is committed to a safety culture of open communication about workplace and patient concerns, near misses and events, which are resolved in a blame-free respectful environment.
- The importance of hand hygiene can not be understated as it is the very foundation of staff and patient safety and quality care.

SCOPE

All healthcare providers, patients, residents and clients across all programs within Fraser Health including employees, medical staff, contractors, volunteers and students.
POLICY

Staff

All healthcare providers (HCPs) across all programs within Fraser Health including employees, medical staff, contractors, volunteers and students will perform hand hygiene before and after touching any patient, resident or client and/or their environment, before aseptic procedures and after blood/body fluid exposure risk.

- **The expectation is that all HCPs will be compliant with hand hygiene 100% of the time.**

- **In emergency situations HCPs are encouraged to perform appropriate hand hygiene as soon as possible after the patient, client or resident has been stabilized.**

- **All HCPs must complete hand hygiene education on an annual basis (Hand Hygiene Education).**

Patients, Residents and Client Hand Hygiene

All HCPs will promote patient, resident and client hand hygiene to assist in reducing the spread of infection. HCPs will provide patients residents, and clients with educational guidance and support to perform adequate techniques in hand hygiene. Patients, residents or clients who are immobile, bed bound, and/or confused may require frequent support from staff to assist with hand hygiene either with soap and water or an alcohol based hand rub (ABHR).

HCPs that are unable to perform hand hygiene due to injury or skin conditions (e.g. eczema, psoriasis) must report to Workplace Health through the call center (1.866.922.9464) and either the Director of Care or Manager of his/her unit or department for consultation.
STANDARDS

Compliance

All Fraser Health programs are required to:

- Perform hand hygiene audits each fiscal period and enter unit level data into the Fraser Health hand hygiene database, utilizing Fraser Health templates and protocols. Hand hygiene auditors will complete initial and annual audit education and certification.

- Monitor and report program hand hygiene compliance rates with improvement plans to the program quality committees.

- Monitor and report hand hygiene education rates on a yearly basis to program quality committees.

The Fraser Health Infection Prevention and Control Committee will report compliance and hand hygiene education rates to the Fraser Health Board Quality Performance Committee and to other key stakeholders (e.g. Ministry of Health) as mandated.

Hand hygiene compliance reports for Programs, sites and healthcare provider types are publicly available.

Any person¹ found in deliberate and persistent violation of this policy may be subject to remedial or disciplinary action pursuant to applicable Fraser Health professional associations or collective and contractual agreements.

Any HCP, including contracted services employees, may report persistent violations of compliance to the Manager/Director of Care of the unit or department. No person will be subject to retaliation for reporting breaches of this hand hygiene policy in good faith.

Visitors, patients, residents and clients will be provided with educational guidance and support to adhere to the hand hygiene policy.

¹ Person refers to all employees, contractors, medical staff, student and volunteers across Fraser Health.
**POLICY TITLE**

HAND HYGIENE

**NUMBER**

TBA

**AUTHORIZATION**

Vice President, Medicine

**DATE APPROVED**

March 2012

**DATE(S) REVISED / REVIEWED**

October 2013

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**PROCEDURES**

Please refer to the Fraser Health Hand Hygiene Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) for particulars regarding hand hygiene technique and technical information.

**Accountability**

- CEO, Executive, Executive Directors and Program Medical Directors

- Responsible to convey and actively support Fraser Health’s commitment to achieving 100% hand hygiene compliance
- Support the development, evaluation and sustainability of the Fraser Health hand hygiene program
- Allocate appropriate budget allocations to ensure hand hygiene standards and best practice are met
- Establish and assign specific responsibilities for the maintenance and sustainability of a hand hygiene program
- Ensure that all levels of management are accountable for hand hygiene compliance results in their program areas
- Review hand hygiene compliance reports on a continuous basis and identify areas requiring executive support
- Support a zero tolerance policy

- Managers/Supervisors

- Responsible to convey and actively support Fraser Health’s commitment to achieving 100% hand hygiene compliance through program/unit-based audits and improvement initiatives
POLICY TITLE
HAND HYGIENE

DATE APPROVED
March 2012

DATE(S) REVISED / REVIEWED
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• Ensure that all HCPs are familiar and comply with the Hand Hygiene Policy, the Hand Hygiene Clinical Practice Guidelines and completes hand hygiene education annually
• Support program/unit based hand hygiene audits
• Ensure that all contractors, volunteers and students working in their areas are familiar and comply with the hand hygiene policy
• Take action to improve hand hygiene compliance and ensure a zero tolerance policy with respect to individuals who are not compliant
• Ensure HCPs identify hand hygiene needs and areas for improvement

• Healthcare Providers (HCPs)
• Comply with this policy
• Responsible to convey and actively support Fraser Health’s commitment to achieving 100% hand hygiene compliance by conducting hand hygiene audits and improvement work
• Demonstrate leadership by providing instruction and educational support regarding hand hygiene to other HCPs, patients, family members and visitors
• Identify hand hygiene needs and support areas for improvement

• Infection Prevention and Control Program
• Responsible to convey and actively support Fraser Health commitment to achieving 100% hand hygiene compliance
• Coordinate the planning, auditing, evaluation,
data capture, sustainability and ongoing compliance reporting of the Fraser Health Hand Hygiene Program in conjunction with other key stakeholders

- Develop and provide train-the-trainer education sessions as required for hand hygiene and ongoing improvement initiatives
- Collaborate and consult with local, provincial, national and international organizations to develop Fraser Health standards, guidelines and best practices on hand hygiene

REFERENCES

Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force October 25, 2002/ Vol. 51 / No. RR-16 http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5116a1.htm

Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology Inc. (Oct. 2002). Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health Care Settings.


### CORPORATE POLICY, STANDARDS and PROCEDURE

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http://www.npsa.nhs.uk/cleanyourhands/

World Health Organization (WHO) FAQs: Hand Hygiene in Health Care (2009)


http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Guide_to_Implementation.pdf