

Infection Prevention & Control

Hand Hygiene

The Red Paint Activity

Materials Needed:

- Red paint/ketchup
- Nitrile/latex gloves of a variety of sizes
- A clock
- Scissors or other sharp device (optional)

The red paint activity game is a great way for healthcare workers to assess their hand washing technique. It is also fairly simple and only requires a few materials with most being readily available in the patient care environment.

Instructions:

Before Activity: Create small holes in a few gloves to be used with scissors or a needle, (optional) as gloves are not all impervious.

Activity:

1. Instruct the group to put on a pair of gloves that fits their hand
2. Take the bottle of red paint and place a dab about the size of a loonie into one palm of each person.
3. Watch the clock and instruct all participants to close their eyes and rub their hands like they would when performing hand hygiene.
4. Instruct the group to sing the Happy Birthday song OR Twinkle Twinkle Little Star OR the chorus of Lady Gaga's Poker Face OR hum the song during final Jeopardy (Optional)
5. After singing OR when 15-20 seconds has passed, instruct the group to open their eyes
6. Each participant should check their hands to see if there are any spots without red paint. These spots are areas that would have been missed if hand hygiene was being done.
7. Next instruct participants to remove their gloves without contaminating themselves or others.
8. Ask participants to inspect their hands for any red spots.
9. If holes were made in gloves, then some participants will have red spots on hands.

Review the importance of performing hand hygiene after doffing gloves because there is a failure rate in gloves. The literature has shown that micro-perforations present in gloves allow microbes to pass through onto hands.

