

Infection Control Policy

Purpose

To ensure that everyone within Korus Health Limited work to the same high standards of infection control with the available resources.

Korus Health Ltd has in place infection control arrangements through policy, resources, education and training and audit to ensure the safety and health of our patients and staff.

Responsibility

All Korus Health Ltd healthcare personnel are to ensure they adhere to the Infection Control Policy.

Effective infection control is a key objective at every level of Korus Health Ltd and will work with outside organisations to fulfill evidence-based best practice.

Training Implications

Online infection control forms part of the mandatory training catalogue.

INFECTION CONTROL DEPTS:

CIOSPCT: 01579 335641

RCHT:01872 254969

PHT: 01752 245167

NDDH: 01271 322577

Scope

This policy is in addition to any infection control policy at our community sites. Every member of staff must ensure they adhere to all the infection control policies within each setting.

For further guidance please refer to the link below.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/standard-infection-control-precautions-national-hand-hygiene-and-personal-protective-equipment-policy/>

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Infection Control Precautions

Before performing hand hygiene:

- expose forearms (bare below the elbow)
- remove all hand and wrist jewellery (a single plain metal finger ring is permitted but should be removed or moved up during hand hygiene).
- ensure fingernails are clean and short and do not wear artificial nails or nail products
- cover all cuts and abrasions with a waterproof dressing

1. Effective Hand Hygiene

- Hands are the principle route by which cross infection occurs in health care settings. Hand hygiene is, therefore the single most important means of reducing the spread of infection. All healthcare workers are required to comply with this policy.
- When to decontaminate hands

The critical point for hand hygiene to occur is:

- **Immediately prior** to every episode of direct patient contact (even if gloves are worn)
- **After** every episode of direct patient contact (even if gloves are worn)
- **After** contact with a patient's immediate environment and the equipment within it.

In addition, hands must be decontaminated:

- After any contact that may result in the hands becoming visibly dirty.
- After handling potentially contaminated equipment.
- Prior to an aseptic procedure.
- After going to the toilet.
- Prior to eating/preparing food or drink.

- Levels and Methods of Routine Hand Hygiene

Handwashing:

Handwashing will remove transient micro-organisms and visible dirt/soiling.

Method

- Liquid soap and running water is required for this level of hand hygiene.
- Wet hands thoroughly under running water.
- Apply liquid soap, rub soap into hands for 20 seconds using an effective technique
- Rinse thoroughly under running water.
- Dry thoroughly with paper towels.

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Alcohol sanitiser:

Generally alcohol hand rub is an effective alternative to routine hand washing if the hands are visibly clean.

Skin Care

- dry hands thoroughly after hand washing using disposable hand towels
- use emollient hand cream at work and when off duty
- staff with skin problems should seek advice from their GP

Personal Protective Equipment

- should be located close to the point of use
- stored to prevent contamination in a clean, dry area until required for use (expiry dates must be kept to)
- disposed of immediately after use
- reusable PPE items e.g. non-disposable goggles, face shields or visors must be decontaminated after each use

Gloves

- worn when exposure to blood and/or other bodily fluids, non-intact skin or mucous membranes is anticipated or likely
- changed immediately after each patient and/or completing a procedure or task
- changed if a perforation or puncture is suspected
- appropriate for use, fit for purpose and well-fitting

Aprons must be worn to protect uniform or clothes when contamination is anticipated or likely

Infectious diseases including COVID

The wearing of masks to potentially prevent the spread of infectious diseases including COVID 19 is at the choice of the patient and the clinical staff.

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