

<b>WELLCOME CARE HOMES Ltd</b>	<b>Date Reviewed March 2023</b>
<b>INFECTION CONTROL GUIDANCE</b>	<b>Page 1 of 2</b>

The steps taken in Residential and Nursing Homes to protect residents from infection represent an important element in the quality of the care they provide and homes have an obligation to also ensure the environment is safe for their staff and visitors.

## **Introduction**

Many infectious diseases have the capacity to spread within residential establishments, where large numbers of people, many of whom may be susceptible to infection, share eating and living accommodation. Infection is a major cause of illness among nursing home residents and may result in avoidable admissions to hospital.

The aim of the policy is to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to protect residents and staff from infections.

## **Universal Infection Control Procedures**

It is not always possible to identify people who may spread infection to others; therefore, precautions to prevent the spread of infection must be followed at all times when care is provided to residents. These routine procedures are usually called **universal precautions**.

All blood and body fluids are potentially infectious and precautions are necessary to prevent exposure to them. These precautions include avoiding injury from sharp objects.

Each member of staff is accountable for their actions and must follow safe practices.

## **Hand Hygiene**

1. Staff should follow good basic hygiene precautions at all times, including thorough hand washing wherever necessary.  
**Hand washing is the single most important measure in reducing cross-infection.**
2. Hands should be washed:
  - Before and after each shift and work break
  - Before and after physical contact with each resident.
  - After handling contaminated waste
  - Before putting on and removing protective clothing.
  - After using the toilet, blowing the nose, covering a sneeze
  - Whenever hands become visibly soiled
  - Before eating, drinking, handling food.
  - Before and after smoking
3. Hands should be thoroughly washed using guidelines available  
**Alcohol gel is provided for use of hands after washing, prior to resident contact.**  
All staff should ensure that wounds or moist skin conditions are covered with a waterproof dressing (without visible air holes). Such dressings are available in the first aid box.

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#### **Excreta blood and body fluids.**

1. A disposable apron and gloves must be worn and eye protection where appropriate.
2. Excreta must be discarded directly into a sluice.
3. Spillages of blood, vomit, urine and excreta should be cleaned up as quickly as possible. All matter and disposable cleaning utensils must be discarded into a yellow bag. Other persons should be kept away from contamination until it is effectively dealt with.
4. Contaminated and foul soiled clothing and bed linen must be contained in red plastic bag (alginate stitched) for direct placement into a washing machine.
5. **Finally wash your hands**

#### **Injections**

**Only a District nurse / Doctor can give injections**

#### **Disposal of sharps**

Sharps containers must not contain items other than that recommended by the certified disposal organisation i.e. no cotton wool, soled dressings paper etc.