Infection Control
2013 Annual Mandatory Education
Content Owner: Infection Prevention
Infection Control - It’s Everybody’s Responsibility!

Here’s how you can protect yourself and your patients:
Standard Precautions

- A simple, consistent and effective approach to infection control
- **Standard precautions** apply to all patients and staff
- All **blood, body fluids, excretions and secretions** are treated as potentially hazardous.
- **Minimize** contact with blood and body substances by utilizing safe work practices and protective barriers

**Hand Hygiene**
- Use of appropriate **Personal Protective Equipment** such as gloves, faceshields, gowns
- Safe handling of sharps
Why is Hand Hygiene important?

- Nearly 2 million people in the US become ill each year as a result of healthcare associated infections. Proper Hand Hygiene is critical to the prevention of these infections which contribute to the death of an estimated 99,000 people per year and $28 billion in medical expenses.

- **Hands are the main pathways of germ transmission**; hand hygiene is therefore the most important measure to avoid the spread of harmful germs to you and your patients.
The 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene

• “Pump in – Pump out”
  – Before and after entering each patient’s room
• After contact with a patient’s equipment or environment
• Before and after procedures or body fluid exposure risk.
• Before and after gloving
• After using the restroom
Hand Hygiene Options at Tufts Medical Center

~ Use **soap** and water for visibly soiled hands ~

Alcohol based Hand rub excellent for all other Hand Hygiene

~ Do not wash off alcohol handrub ~
Skin and Fingernail policies

• Hospital approved skin lotion, compatible with the antiseptic soap (2% CHG), is the only approved product to be used and is available at Tufts Medical Center in wall mounted dispensers.

• Commercially available lotions should not be used as they inactivate the persistent activity of the antiseptic soap.

• In addition, they may become easily contaminated and a reservoir for infection.

• Natural nail tips should be kept to ¼ inch in length.

• Artificial nails should **not** be worn by personnel who provide direct care.

• Artificial nails should **not** be worn by other personnel who handle critical items that would come in contact with the patient (food, medications, and instruments/equipment for sterilization and disinfection).
Respiratory Etiquette

- Goal is to keep both the air around you and your hands clean.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, dispose of tissue and clean your hands.
- OR cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.
- If you are ill with a fever, do not return to work until 24 hrs after the fever is gone without fever reducing medications. Wear a mask if your respiratory symptoms persist.
• All employees must be screened through the EHS before starting work.
• Immunizations, TB status, and general fitness for duty will be assessed.
• EHS will provide post exposure evaluations following needlesticks/sharps exposures, or other infectious disease exposures
• EHS is located on Farnsworth 6, or call 6-5480
Routine Tuberculosis Screening of Staff

**Upon Hire:**
- PPD skin test (two step test) prior to work start date.
- Documentation of baseline chest x-ray if previously known positive skin test.

**Annually:**
- PPD skin test for staff with previously negative PPD
- Persons with known positive skin test are evaluated for wellness by EHS
Influenza Vaccine

- Primary means to prevent influenza and its complications
- Recommended for all persons 6 months of age and older

- Primary means to protect infants <6 months is vaccination
- Recommendation for vaccination of healthcare provider is a key factor in patients decisions to get vaccinated

**Required for all Tufts MC Employees**

- EHS will announce Flu clinics and administer Flu shots prior to each flu season (early fall) as soon as supply arrives