



Infection, Prevention and Control

What is the Purpose of Infection Control?

Infection control is used to minimise the risk of spreading healthcare infections. The purpose of infection control is to reduce the occurrence and spread of infectious diseases.

Why is Infection Control important?

Infection control is important because, without it, people are at higher risk of infection. Pathogens spread very quickly particularly from one person to another without effective infection control.

The Basic Principles of Standard Precautions

There is a basic level of infection control precaution, which should be used as a minimum, when coming into contact with people. Hand hygiene is a major component of standard precautions and one of the most effective methods to prevent transmission of pathogens associated with health care.

“Standard Precautions” require that workers assume that the blood and body substances of all people are potential sources of infection, regardless of diagnosis or presumed infectious status.

The basic principles of standard precautions are:

Hand Hygiene

Hand washing and drying before and after each personal contact, before and after preparing meals (if applicable) etc. or use of hand sanitising products if hand washing is not available. Hand washing is the most important procedure in the prevention and minimisation of the spread of infection.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (if applicable to your role)

Disposable gloves, disposable apron (one use only)

Respiratory Hygiene (Cough Etiquette)

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, use the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the used tissue, perform basic hand hygiene.

The above information provides a brief overview of Infection Prevention and Control. Please follow your own organisational specific requirements in relation to your role.