

Blackbird Clinical Services



Hand Hygiene Policy

Standard Precautions:

Standard Precautions should be used by healthcare personnel caring for patients *regardless* of the patient's diagnosis and whether or not the patient is known to have a communicable infection.

- Hand hygiene (handwashing with soap and water or use of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer) before and after patient contact and after contact with the immediate patient care environment.
 - **HAND RUB** (foam and gel)
 - Apply to palm of one hand (the amount used depends on specific hand rub product).
 - Rub hands together, covering all surfaces, focusing in particular on the fingertips and fingernails, until dry. Use enough rub to require at least 15 seconds to dry.
 - **HANDWASHING**
 - Wet hands with water.
 - Apply soap.
 - Rub hands together for at least 15 seconds, covering all surfaces, focusing on fingertips and fingernails.
 - Rinse under running water and dry with disposable towel.
 - Use the towel to turn off the faucet.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) when exposure to blood, body fluids, excretions, secretions (except sweat), mucous membranes, or non-intact skin is anticipated. PPE includes:
 - **Gloves** – when hand contamination is anticipated.
 - **Masks and eye protection** – when splashes may occur.
 - **Gowns** – when soiling of clothes may occur.