

Celebrating International Infection Prevention Week

Employee Forum, Tuesday 18 October 2022

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This week (16 October to 22 October) is International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW) and offers us the opportunity to recognise the important role of infection prevention professionals globally.

- We are proud of our infection prevention team and the amazing work they do every day to keep our colleagues, patients, and communities safe.
- The pandemic highlighted the crucial role infection prevention plays in slowing the spread of illness and disease.
- Infection prevention and control played an important part in community and healthcare practices well before the pandemic.



Remember, infection prevention is everyone's responsibility. To commemorate the week, we are putting the spotlight on some key infection prevention topics.

Keep an eye on iNews for a daily spotlight – today we covered hand hygiene!



Hand hygiene – Before and after, every time



Cleaning clinical equipment – Remember, clean between



Occupational exposures – Safety first, always



Back to basics - Standard precautions and immunisations

Hand hygiene is almost second nature to healthcare workers, but sometimes when we find ourselves busy or distracted, we might forget to stop and sanitise.



- Remind yourself of the 5 moments of hand hygiene and that clean hands save lives.
- Perform hand hygiene:
 - **Before and after** contact with our patients
 - **Before and after** procedures
 - **Before and after** touching equipment
- Download (from the COVID-19 website) and display the latest hand hygiene posters in your area.
- If you need a refresher, you can find the 'Hand Hygiene Procedure' on PROMPT.



When using clinical equipment, remember to always clean between! If clinical equipment is not cleaned after every use, infectious microorganisms can be transferred to patients and cause sickness.



- Cleaning clinical equipment after use, removes any dust, soil, bacteria and viruses present on the equipment, reducing the risk of illness spreading.
- Like our hand hygiene practices clinical equipment should be cleaned:
 - **Before and after** contact with our patients
 - **Before and after** procedures
 - **Before and after** touching equipment
 - **Between** patients
- For more information, see the 'Clinical Equipment Cleaning Procedure' on PROMPT.



Safety first, always! For our clinical employees, it is important to understand what occupational exposures are and how to respond to them if they occur.



- Occupational exposure is an incident involving a healthcare worker where there is a risk of exposure to certain bloodborne viruses, in the course of their work.
- **What should I do if I have had an occupational exposure?**
 - Step 1: First aid always comes first
 - Step 2: Report the incident promptly
- **How can I prevent occupational exposure?**
 - Always apply standard precautions
 - Ensure your vaccination status is up to date
 - Safe handling of sharps
- For any concerns or incidents contact the occupational exposure coordinator for your site.




In our last instalment, we are going back to basics and putting a spotlight on standard precautions and the important role of immunisations.

 **Monash Health**

Standard Precautions

These are the minimum infection prevention practices that apply to all patient care, regardless of suspected or confirmed infection status of the patient.

 Perform hand hygiene	 Always clean equipment before and after use.
 Use the appropriate level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	 Maintain aseptic technique
 Physical distancing, wherever possible.	 Always dispose of sharps safely
 Follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.	 Handle and dispose of waste and used linen safely

 Risk-assessment before any patient contact. If you cannot assess the situation, it's better to be prepared with PPE: **"if in doubt, don't go without"**.

Employee Vaccination Program

- **Know:** Know your vaccination status and maintain your routine and yearly vaccinations.
- **Check:** If you are unsure of your vaccination status, contact the Infection Prevention Team.
- **Protect:** Get the vaccinations you need to protect yourself, your patients and your loved ones.
- For more information review the 'Staff Immunisation Procedure' on PROMPT.

