

Routine Practices

For Personal Services Settings:

- Replaces Universal Precautions
- Based on assumption that ALL blood, body fluids (except sweat and tears), secretions, excretions, non-intact skin, undiagnosed rashes and areas such as eyes, nose and mouth may be potentially infectious, even if a person shows no symptoms of illness.
- Expected practice to reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms to the client and the personal service worker (PSW)

A person can spread germs even if they don't know they have them.

To be used with all clients during all service delivery and include:

Hand Hygiene (refer to *Handwashing* and *Hand Sanitizers* posters)

- Should be performed:
 - ✓ between clients
 - ✓ before performing invasive procedures
 - ✓ after contact with blood, body fluids, secretions and excretions
 - ✓ after contact with items known, or considered likely, to be contaminated with blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions
 - ✓ immediately prior to and after removing gloves
 - ✓ between procedures on the same client in which soiling of hands is likely, to avoid cross-contamination of body sites

When hands are visibly soiled, must hand wash.

Gloves (not a substitute for hand hygiene)

- Should be worn:
 - ✓ for contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin
 - ✓ when handling items visibly soiled with blood, body fluids, secretions and excretions
 - ✓ when the PSW has non-intact skin on the hands
- Changed between procedures with the same clients and between clients
- Single-use disposable gloves should not be reused or washed

Face Protection & Gowns

- Worn when likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, excretions, secretions
- Protects mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth, uncovered skin and prevents soiling of clothing

Equipment (Articles that touch the client's intact skin must be clean)

- Equipment used for more than one client must be cleaned and disinfected or sterilized as appropriate between clients
- Soiled client care equipment handled to prevent exposure of skin and mucous membranes and contamination of clothing and the environment
- Used needles and other sharp instruments handled with care to avoid injuries during disposal. Needles must not be recapped prior to disposal. Used sharp items disposed in an approved sharps container located in the area where the sharps item is used.



Health
Department

Environmental Help Line
905-723-3818 or 1-888-777-9613
durham.ca



Information available in accessible formats.