

Non-Sterile Glove Usage in Home & Community Based Services

There is absolutely no substitute for good hand washing to prevent the transmission of germs. The key to maintaining a “healthy” environment is the use of appropriate measures for infection prevention. Consistent use of good hygienic practices and techniques is critical to prevent microorganisms carried on the skin. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides clear guidelines based on standard precautions which are without a doubt the best criteria for everyone to use. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards for work-place health and safety require employers to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for their employees and provide training on infection control practices.

Proper hand washing technique

- Proper hand-washing facilities include antimicrobial soap, hot water, disposable towels and/or heat/air drying methods.
- Wash hands for twenty seconds with hot water and antimicrobial soap.
- Dry hands.
- Use paper towels to turn off the water after drying hands.

Hand hygiene practices

- Before and after contact with an individual
- Before and after eating food/drinking
- Before and after handling uncooked foods
- After going to the bathroom
- After using tobacco
- Before and after changing an adult disposable pads or cleaning up a person who has gone to the bathroom
- Before and after tending to someone who is sick
- Before and after treating to someone’s cut or wound
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After handling an animal or animal waste
- After handling garbage

Basic infection prevention

- Staff and individuals should wash their hands with anti-microbial soap and water frequently.
- Alcohol hand gels are an effective addition to hand washing and a reasonable temporary substitute when soap and clean water are not readily available.
- Alcohol hand gel should be readily available in the work environment.
- Do not share personal care items such as combs, razors, toothbrushes, or towels with anyone else.
- Follow good hygienic practices during food preparation (see table below).
- Do not share eating utensils or drinking containers.

Table 1 Care activities that do NOT require gloves (usually no potential for exposure to blood or body fluids, or contaminated environment or the person has intact skin and mucous membranes)

Reasons for usage which exceed of State Plan guidelines for billing services provided to individuals	Strategies for reducing usage of non-sterile gloves and promote appropriate usage of non-sterile gloves	Resources for providers
<p>Gloves are NOT required for the following activities, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking vital signs • Performing subcutaneous (SC) injections and intramuscular (IM) injections • Bathing and dressing the person • Skin and hair care • Fingernail and toenail clipping • Caring for eyes and ears (without secretions) • Assisting with brushing teeth • Assisting with or giving oral medications • Transporting the person • Serving or collecting food and dishes • Removing and replacing bed linens • House or equipment cleaning • Laundry tasks 	<p>As described on the previous page, follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proper hand washing technique 2. Hand hygiene practices 3. Basic infection prevention 	

Reasons for usage which exceed of State Plan guidelines for billing services provided to individuals	Strategies for reducing usage of non-sterile gloves and promote appropriate usage of non-sterile gloves	Resources for providers
Cold food preparation – No gloves required. (Not applicable for institutional or restaurant cold food handling.)	<p>Hands should be washed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • before working with food preparation • after handling soiled equipment or utensils, • when changing from working with raw food to ready-to-eat food, • before donning gloves for working with food, and • as necessary to remove soil and contamination to prevent cross-contamination when changing tasks. <p>Gloved hands are considered a food contact surface that can get contaminated or soiled. Failure to change gloves between tasks can contribute to cross-contamination.</p>	

Table 2 Care activities that DO require gloves, (potential for touching blood, mucous membranes, body fluids, secretions, excretions, non-intact skin and items visibly soiled by body fluids).

Reasons for usage which exceed of State Plan guidelines for billing services provided to individuals	Strategies for reducing usage of non-sterile gloves and promote appropriate usage of non-sterile gloves	Resources for providers
<p>Gloves are required for the following activities, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incontinent care • Assisting with activities of daily living to individuals with wounds, open sores, compromised skin/toenails (bathing, skin and hair care, fingernail & toenail clipping) • Emptying emesis basins • Handling body wastes • Cleaning up spills of body fluids 	<p>OSHA’s Bloodborne Pathogens standard (29 CFR 1910.1030) requires employers to protect workers who are occupationally exposed to blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM), as defined in the standard. That is, the standard protects workers who can reasonably be anticipated to come into contact with blood or OPIM as a result of doing their job duties.</p> <p>Employers must provide their employees with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and ensure that PPE is disposed or, if reusable, that it is properly cleaned or laundered, repaired and stored after use.</p> <p>Personnel should be informed that gloves do not provide complete protection against hand contamination. Further, wearing gloves does not provide complete protection against acquisition of infections caused by hepatitis B virus and herpes simplex virus. In such instances, pathogens presumably gain access to the caregiver's hands via small defects in gloves or by contamination of the hands during glove removal.</p> <p>Personnel should be reminded that failure to remove gloves between patients may contribute to transmission of organisms.</p> <p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issues recommendations for when and what PPE should be used to prevent exposure to infectious diseases.</p>	<p>https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_BloodborneFacts/bbfact03.pdf</p> <p>http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5116a1.htm</p>

Educational resources available for providers

- <http://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/Training.html> — Educational Resources from Center Control and Prevention with Hand Hygiene Interactive Training Course. This course and promotional materials review key concepts of hand hygiene and other standard precautions to prevent healthcare-associated infections. Tools for Training and Education tools available. All health-care workers require clear and comprehensive training and education on the importance of hand hygiene, the “My 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene” approach and the correct procedures for handrubbing and handwashing. Educational Power Point Slide Sets w/Speaker Notes (May 2003). Core slides and accompanying speaker notes provide an overview of the Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings published in 2002.
- <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/qualitymatters/qcp/flu/handhygiene.pdf> — This brochure, provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and DADS, answers “why,” when,” “how,” “which,” and “who,” regarding hand hygiene. This information is also available en español.
- <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/qualitymatters/qcp/flu/fluposter-english.pdf> — This poster, provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, illustrates preventative measures on respiratory and hand hygiene. This information is also available in Spanish.
- https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_BloodborneFacts/bbfact03.pdf — Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) fact sheet. OSHA’s Bloodborne Pathogens standard (29 CFR 1910.1030) requires employers to protect workers who are occupationally exposed to blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM), as defined in the standard.
- https://www.osha.gov/dte/library/ppe_assessment/ppe_assessment.html — Training site offered by OSHA Office of Training and Education. It contains assessment tools for eyes and face, head protection, foot and leg, protection, hand and arm protection (gloves), body protection and hearing protection. It may be useful to assist providers to comply with OSHA general PPE requirements.
- http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Glove_Use_Information_Leaflet.pdf — to aid decision making on when to wear (and not wear) gloves.
- http://www.who.int/gpsc/tools/5momentsHandHygiene_A3.pdf — This resource, provided by the World Health Organization (WHO), offers illustrated instructions on “when” and “why” to perform hand hygiene.