

Policy Statement

CLINIC INFECTION CONTROL

Standard Precautions used to be called "Universal Precautions." Standard Precautions include hand hygiene, isolation precautions, wearing personal protective equipment, and sterilization of reusable equipment.

Hand hygiene is the most effective way to prevent infection and is often considered the first line of defense against germs. Hand hygiene is important for the safety of health care workers and the patients they treat.

Isolation Precautions are precautions that are taken in health care settings to prevent the spread of an infectious agent from an infected or colonized patient to susceptible persons.

Please observe the following procedures:

1. Clinicians and/or clients should stay home if contagious.
2. Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into the upper sleeve/arm, not hands.
3. Sanitize hands before and after assisting clients with facial tissue use (e.g., runny nose).
2. Gloves should be worn during any activities where the skin or mucus might be touched, such as oral motor exercises.
3. Report any bodily fluid-based events/exposure, such as toileting accidents, vomiting, or cuts, immediately to the department/clinic administrator.
4. Disinfect table surfaces, chair backs, and door knobs after each therapy/diagnostic session.
5. Wash hands with soap and water after each therapy/diagnostic session. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
6. All items used for cleaning in the clinic should be promptly thrown away.
7. Report the need for replacement hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and/or tissues to the department/clinic administrator.
8. Equipment used in the clinic, such as ear tips, ear probes, and articulation tools, should be disinfected as outlined by best practices and standard clinical operating procedures.
9. Diaper changing is restricted to restrooms equipped with changing tables.

Additional reference: <https://www.asha.org/slp/infectioncontrol/>