Hand Washing

Hand washing is the single most important measure for preventing the spread of infection and disease. All staff is responsible for observing this hand washing policy.

POLICY:

Staff will wash hands:
1. After using the toilet, blowing or wiping nose, coughing, smoking or combing the hair.
2. After handling soiled laundry or items with body fluids and housekeeping tasks.
3. Before and after wearing disposable gloves.
4. Before handling medication.
5. Before and after helping residents with personal care tasks of daily living.
7. Whenever you change from doing a “dirty” task to a “clean” task.
8. Upon reporting on and off duty.
9. Dietary employees must wash hands at the kitchen sink upon reentry to the kitchen.
10. Before leaving for and upon returning from break periods and meals.
11. Whenever hands are obviously soiled.
12. When in doubt, wash!

THE USE OF GLOVES DOES NOT REPLACE HAND WASHING

PROCEDURE:

1. Remove all rings, as these harbor dirt and skin organisms.
2. Stand away from the sink to prevent cross-contamination of clothing.
3. Turn on water to a comfortable temperature. Lukewarm water has a less drying effect on the skin.
4. Wet hands and wrists.
5. Apply the amount of product recommended by the manufacturer to the hands, and rub together vigorously for at least 20 seconds.
6. Pay particular attention to the area between fingers and under nails.
7. Rinse hands well under running water.
8. Dry hands well using disposable paper towels.
9. Turn off water with paper towel and discard.