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| **Hand Hygiene**  |
| **Purpose** | This policy provides guidance for HAND HYGIENE. |
| **Policy Statements** | To reduce the potential risk of transmission of microorganisms to other staff, patients, visitors, surfaces and environments, Children’s Minnesota laboratory staff must practice appropriate hand hygiene. |
| **Indications for Hand Hygiene** | Wash hands with hospital approved soap and water:* when hands are visibly dirty or visibly soiled with blood or other body fluids
* immediately after accidental contact with blood, body fluids, other potentially infectious materials (OPIM), contaminated materials and chemicals
* when leaving an enteric precautions patient room
* after using a restroom

Wash hands with an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and water for routine hand antisepsis and:* after removing gloves
* after removing lab coat
* before leaving the laboratory
* before and after contact with patients, includes when entering and exiting a patient room
* between patient contacts
* before using a restroom
* before eating, drinking, smoking, vaping, applying makeup, and manipulating contact lenses
* before all other activities which entail hand contact with mucous membranes, eyes, or breaks in the skin
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| **Procedure** | Follow the activities in the table below to wash hands with soap and water. |
|  | **Step** | **Action** |
|  | 1 | Wet hands with running water. |
|  | 2 | Apply a hospital-approved soap product. |
|  | 3 | Rub hands together to lather soap and cover all surfaces of the hand; be sure to scrub the backs of hands, between fingers and under nails. |
|  | 4 | Continue rubbing hands for 15-20 seconds. |
|  | 5 | Rinse hands well under running water. |
|  | 6 | Dry hands using a disposable towel or air dry. |
|  | 7 | Use towel to turn off faucet. |
|  | Follow the activities in the table below to wash hands using an alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR). |
| **Step** | **Action** |
| 1 | Apply a palmful of ABHR. |
| 2 | Cover all surfaces of the hands. |
| 3 | Rub hands dry. |
| **Note** | If hands are visibly soiled or contaminated with potentially infectious material, wash hands with soap and water rather than an ABHR. |
| **Supporting Documents** | [1201.08 Hand Hygiene, Fingernails and Jewelry for Infection Prevention and Control](http://khan.childrensmn.org/manuals/policy/1200/005611.pdf) |
| **References** | 1. CLSI. *Clinical Laboratory Safety*; Approved Guideline-Third Edition. CLSI document GP17-A3. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2012.
2. CLSI. *Protection of Laboratory Workers from Occupationally Acquired Infections*; Approved Guideline-Fourth Edition. CLSI document M29-A4. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2014.
3. OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030).
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| **Historical Record** | **Version** | **Written/Revised by:** | **Effective Date:** | **Summary of Revisions** |
| 1 | Carol Cram |  | Initial Version |
|  | 2 | Kerstin Halverson | 07/01/03 |  |
|  | 3 | Carol Buhl | 03/28/14 | Reformatted.Renumbered from 10.3.Added indications for hand hygiene.Added supporting documents.Added references. |
|  | 4  | Carol Buhl & Lab Safety Committee | 03/17/17 | Added information about using soap and water for enteric precautions. |
|  | 5 | Carol Buhl & Lab Safety Committee | 01/23/19 | Added for clarification: ‘when entering and exiting a patient room.’Updated references.  |