
Airborne Precautions

Client, Family and Visitor Information – For Acute Care

Airborne precautions are used when you have (or may have) germs that can be passed on to others. These germs may spread to others when they breathe the same indoor air as you.

The *airborne precautions* client will be placed in a room with an *airborne precaution* sign to notify staff, family, and visitors of the required precautions. This room will be a single room with specialized air changes, a single room with a portable HEPA filtration unit or a single room, of which the door must remain closed. Some of our clients are very ill and need all of us to be careful to protect them. We thank you for your help.

When **additional precautions** are in place the staff will:

- Clean hands before and after client contact.
- May wear a special mask (an N95).

While on **airborne precautions** the client should:

- Clean hands frequently, especially after coughing and sneezing.
- Cover nose and mouth with a tissue or upper arm when coughing and sneezing.
- Clean hands before leaving, when you return and after using tissues.
- Limit items in the room so it is easy to clean (i.e., books, cards, newspaper). Have things you do not need taken home.
- Limit visitors.
- **Stay in your room. Leave the room for required tests or therapy only.** If you need to leave your room for procedures, tests or therapies:
 - Make sure the nurse knows where you are going
 - Clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water as shown on the back of page
 - Gloves are not required
 - Staff will provide a clean housecoat or gown if you do not have freshly laundered clothes
 - Staff will wear a gown, gloves and may wear a special mask if they need to help you
 - If you leave the building, clean your hands before leaving and when you return
- Do not visit:
 - Common areas such as TV, reading and family rooms
 - Unit kitchen and mobile food carts
 - Public washrooms

What does this mean for family and friends?

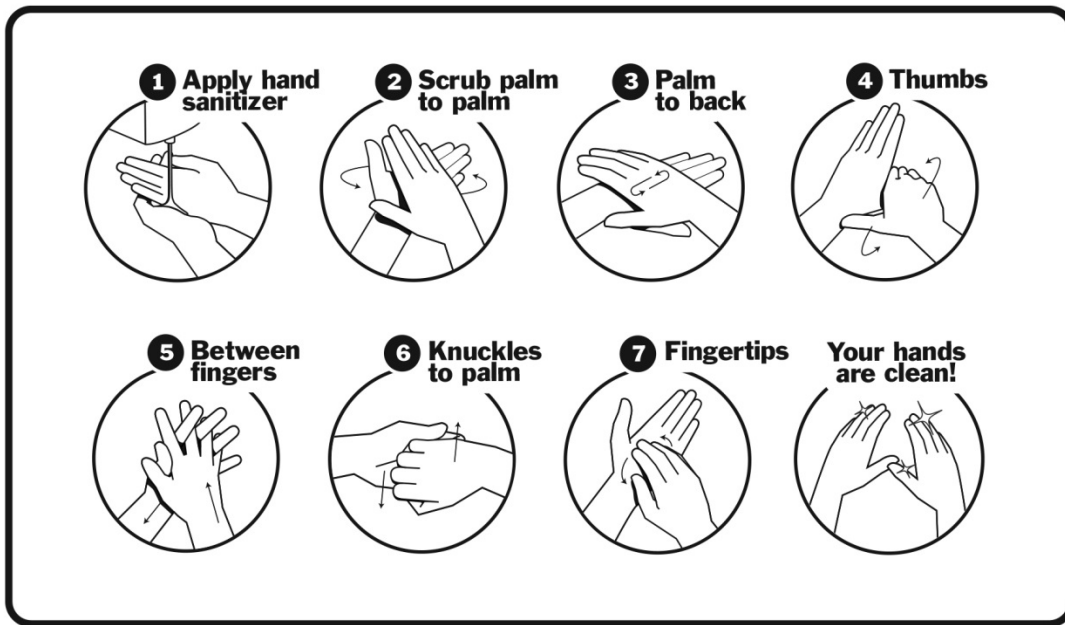
- **Please speak to the client nurse before entering and whether you are required to use an N95.**
 - For tuberculosis, an N95 is required at all times for those entering the room.
 - For chickenpox or measles, avoid visiting if you have never had the disease. If you are immune (previously had the disease) or have been vaccinated, no respirator is required.
- **It is very important that the entry/exit doors to this room remain closed.** The client bathroom door needs to remain open.
- Always clean your hands before entering and when exiting the room.
- If you are able to visit without providing care, cleaning your hands before and after the visit is required.
- If you are providing direct care (feeding, bathing, toileting, transferring) you need to wear a gown, gloves and may need to wear a special mask (ask the client nurse for direction).
- Avoid visiting or assisting other clients.
- Use public washroom facilities, not the client bathroom.
- Avoid use of common areas when visiting (TV lounges, kitchen area or nutrition carts).

*See how to clean hands on back of page

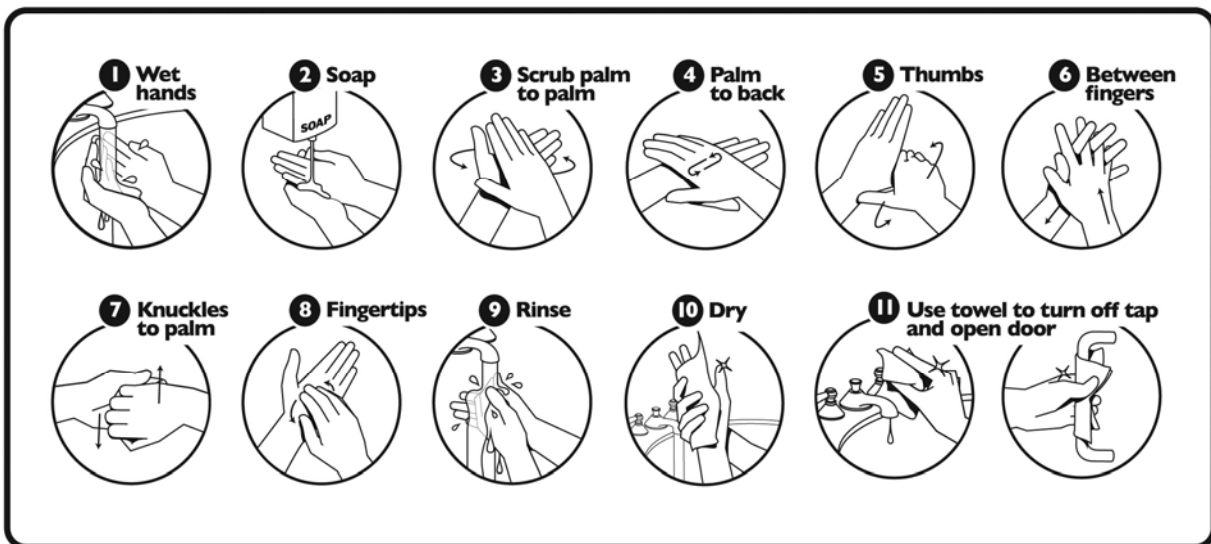


Infection Prevention & Control

Cleaning hands with alcohol-based hand rub:



Cleaning hands with soap and water:



If you have any questions, please speak to your nurse.