

# Infection Preventionist Lunch and Learn

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*of* HEALTH SERVICES

# Series Objectives

- Encourage learning, growth, and networking
- Provide non-regulatory education and information
- Discuss topics relevant to new infection preventionists (IPs)

# Hand Hygiene



# Hand Hygiene



- Part of standard precautions
- Alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) preferred in most clinical situations

# When to Practice Hand Hygiene

## Before

Putting on PPE

Touching patient or  
resident

Moving from dirty to  
a clean task

## After

Removing PPE

Touching patient or  
resident

Touching  
contaminated  
object or equipment

# Hand Hygiene Myths



# Myth

**True or false:** Hand washing with soap and water is generally more effective for hand hygiene than ABHR.

# FALSE!

ABHR is actually more effective at killing germs than soap.

Using ABHR is also faster and more convenient than soap and water, making it easier for staff to comply with hand hygiene expectations.



# Myth

**True or false:** When washing hands with soap and water, it is best to get the water as hot as tolerable.

# FALSE!

You can use either warm or cold water to wash your hands. The water helps create a soap lather, which is what removes germs from your skin.

Cool or warm water is preferred to prevent irritation to the skin.

# Myth

**True or false:** When caring for a patient or resident who is colonized or infected with a multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO), soap and water is the preferred method of hand hygiene.

# FALSE!

In most clinical situations involving MDROs, ABHR is acceptable.

Some clinical situations where soap and water would be preferred include when hands are visibly soiled and when the patient or resident has *C. difficile* or norovirus.

# Myth

**True or false:** I need to perform hand hygiene every time I remove my gloves, even if the gloves aren't visibly soiled or torn.

# TRUE!

It is appropriate to perform hand hygiene every time gloves are removed.

# Myth

**True or false:** ABHR can be mounted in the hallways of a memory care unit.

# TRUE!

There is no regulatory statute that prohibits ABHR from being mounted in hallways.

However, the decision on where to mount ABHR should be based upon the facility risk assessment.



# Common Scenario



# Scenario

When rounding in the therapy gym, you notice that the ABHR is expired. What should you do?

- A. Dispose of the expired product
- B. Don't worry because ABHR doesn't expire
- C. Dispose of the expired ABHR, replace it with new, and evaluate the reason the ABHR expired

# Answer

## **C. Dispose of the expired ABHR, replace it with new, and evaluate the reason the ABHR expired**

- Review hand hygiene compliance data for this area.
- Interview staff to see how frequently ABHR is used here.
- Determine whose role it is to look for and replace ABHR.

# Scenario

Your infection control committee has asked for the most recent hand hygiene compliance data. How will you get this information?

- A. Observe employees for a week and make a mental note of what you see
- B. Perform audits and determine the compliance rate
- C. Poll employees to see how they think they are doing

# Answer

**B. Perform audits and determine the rate of compliance**

# Scenario

What is the best way to present hand hygiene data to the committee?

- A. Calculate compliance rates and show in a graph overtime
- B. Bring the stack of audits and let the committee look through them to identify trends
- C. Verbally report the compliance rate

# Answer

**A. Calculate compliance rates and show in a graph over time**

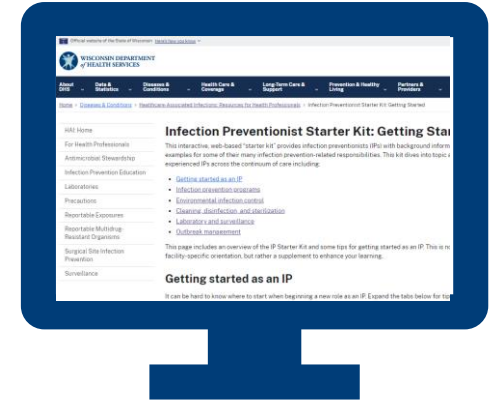
# Resources

- [Hand hygiene for health care workers webpage](#)
- [HAI Program standard precautions webpage](#)
- [Hand hygiene observation tracking workbook](#)



# IP Starter Kit

- Interactive, web-based [resource](#)
- Background information, resources, and templates
- Covers topics applicable to IPs across care settings



# HAI Prevention Program Contact Information



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# Send your questions and topic suggestions.

Submit your ideas to Ashley O'Keefe at [ashley.okeefe@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:ashley.okeefe@dhs.wisconsin.gov).



# **Upcoming Lunch and Learn Session**

**Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

**Topic: Bacteria in Urine Does Not Equate to a Urinary  
Tract Infection**