

**Health Concerns**

*Infection Control*



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**Health Concerns**

*Infection Control*

*A primary goal of any residential or health care facility is ensuring the health, safety and well-being of consumers and employees. The importance of a clean and disease-free environment cannot be overstated.*

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**Health Concerns**

*Infection Control*

*Whereas providing a sterile environment in our residential units may not be practical or desirable, proper cleansing is an essential component of care.*

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

*Sterilization is the process of removing all microorganisms from objects.*

*Cleansing (known as asepsis), which removes most microorganisms, is very important in preventing the conditions that allow pathogens to live, multiply, and spread.*

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

*The goals of infection control are to provide an environment in which the person will be able to get rid of the current infection, not catch any new infection and not pass an infection to others.*

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

*Share the responsibility for infection control by using the following cleansing techniques and precautions:*

- 1. Hands and other skin surfaces should be washed with soap and water immediately before and after direct care is given to any person. Also wash hands thoroughly if contaminated with body substances.*

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

Share the responsibility for infection control by using the following cleansing techniques and precautions:

2. **Gloves are worn** when direct contact with moist body substances or body fluids (blood, pus, urine, feces, saliva, drainage of any kind) is anticipated.

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

Share the responsibility for infection control by using the following cleansing techniques and precautions:

3. **A moisture resistant gown or apron** is worn when soiling of clothing with a body substance is anticipated. A mask and protective eyewear are worn when splashing and spraying of body substances into the mouth, nose or eyes are possible.

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

Share the responsibility for infection control by using the following cleansing techniques and precautions:

4. After use, **needles** and other instruments are placed directly into a puncture-resistant container. Needles should not be recapped, bent, broken, or clipped.

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

Share the responsibility for infection control by using the following cleansing techniques and precautions:

5. *Laboratory specimens* should be transported in a Ziploc bag or other container to prevent spills. Specimens are not to be labeled “*infectious*” because all specimens are to be treated as such.

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

Not all *microorganisms* are capable of producing disease. Many are helpful to the human body. For example, certain types of microorganisms are needed in order to digest food. Many are helpful when they are in their appropriate environments but harmful when they get into places other than their normal environments.

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

There are four routes through which microorganisms may travel from their source to the host:

1. *Contact*. The source and the host may come into direct physical contact (person to person) allowing for the direct transfer of microorganisms.

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**Health Concerns**  
**Infection Control**

*There are four routes through which microorganisms may travel from their source to the host:*

2. **Vehicle.** *A single non-living vehicle may serve to transmit the microorganisms to many hosts; contaminated food and water are examples.*

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**Health Concerns**  
**Infection Control**

*There are four routes through which microorganisms may travel from their source to the host:*

3. **Air.** *Infecting organisms can be truly airborne being transmitted from source to host in droplets or dust.*

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**Health Concerns**  
**Infection Control**

*There are four routes through which microorganisms may travel from their source to the host:*

4. **Vector.** *Certain living creatures, such as insects, may transmit diseases as they travel.*

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**Health Concerns**  
*Infection Control*

Once a microorganism has been transmitted to a new host, it needs special conditions in order to grow and produce disease or illness: a sufficient amount of moisture and oxygen; the right temperature; darkness; and food.

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**Health Concerns**  
*Infection Control*

Disease producing microorganisms (pathogens) harm the body by using its tissues as food and by putting out waste products (toxins) that poison the body.

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**Health Concerns**  
*Infection Control*

Examples of infectious diseases include:

1. Bacterial infections – strep throat, urinary tract infections, bacteremia (bacteria in the blood)

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**Health Concerns**  
*Infection Control*

*Examples of infectious diseases include:*

2. *Fungal infections* – candidiasis (thrush), athlete's foot.

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**Health Concerns**  
*Infection Control*

*Examples of infectious diseases include:*

3. *Viral infections* – common cold, polio, influenza, measles, rabies, herpes, hepatitis, HIV (AIDS)

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**Health Concerns**  
*Infection Control*

*Examples of infectious diseases include:*

4. *Protozoal infections* – malaria, African Sleeping Sickness.

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**Health Concerns**  
*Infection Control*

*Examples of infectious diseases include:*

5. *Helminth infections – worms.*

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**Health Concerns**  
*Infection Control*

*The wrong kind of contact with the wrong kind of bodily fluid can transmit dangerous viruses such as:*

*Hepatitis A*  
*Hepatitis B*  
*Hepatitis C*  
*HIV*

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**Health Concerns**  
*Infection Control*

*Maintaining the health, safety and well-being of our consumers and employees means that we implement certain universal precautions.*

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

**Universal Precautions**

**Universal** – Treat the blood and body fluids of all persons equally – regardless of what you know about the person.

**Precautions** – Place appropriate barriers between yourself and those fluids.

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

**Universal Precautions**

*In the application of universal precautions in a residential facility we strive to strike a delicate balance:*

*First, we take all necessary steps to preserve the health and well-being of consumers and staff.*

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

**Universal Precautions**

*In the application of universal precautions in a residential facility we strive to strike a delicate balance:*

*Second, we are informed about which situations put people at risk and which do not.*

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

**Universal Precautions**

*In the application of universal precautions in a residential facility we strive to strike a delicate balance:*

*Third, we are equipped and trained to handle situations involving precautionary substances.*

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

**Universal Precautions**

*In the application of universal precautions in a residential facility we strive to strike a delicate balance:*

*Fourth, we teach precautions to the consumers in a manner appropriate to their level of understanding.*

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**Health Concerns**

**Infection Control**

**Universal Precautions**

*The precautionary group of fluids includes:*

- Blood*
- Semen*
- Vaginal secretions*
- Drainage from open wounds*
- Other fluids that visibly contain blood*

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**Health Concerns**

*Infection Control*

**Universal Precautions**

*The list of fluids which, under most circumstances, **do not** pose a threat includes:*

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Feces</i>            | <i>Urine</i>  |
| <i>Nasal secretions</i> | <i>Saliva</i> |
| <i>Vomit</i>            | <i>Sweat</i>  |
| <i>Tears</i>            |               |

*These have not been shown to be hazardous.*

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**Health Concerns**

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**Universal Precautions**

*Precautionary fluids present a danger if they contact:*

*Mouth*

*Eyes or other mucus membranes*

*Non-intact skin*

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**Health Concerns**

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**Universal Precautions**

*Non-intact skin includes skin which has:*

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Abrasions</i> | <i>Lacerations (cuts)</i> |
| <i>Scratches</i> | <i>Ulcerated skin</i>     |
| <i>Rashes</i>    | <i>Chapped skin</i>       |

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