

## Hand Hygiene Compliance

It is well known that a simple act, such as hand hygiene, can have the greatest impact on the well-being of our patients. Practicing hand hygiene, the simplest of actions we can take, is the foundation of an effective infection control and prevention program. Our commitment to keep our patients safe during their stay starts with this simple act, good hand hygiene. We can accomplish this by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, or soap and water, before and after every patient encounter.

It is our policy at Sharon Regional Medical Center to have staff clean their hands both before and after every patient encounter. We also encourage our patients and visitors to clean their hands often to help prevent the spread of infection.

Hand hygiene compliance is a National Patient Safety Goal. At Sharon Regional Medical Center, we take hand hygiene compliance seriously and conduct surveillance of compliance throughout each unit each month. We encourage a speak-up culture among our healthcare teams to acknowledge good hand hygiene practices and provide gentle reminders when needed.

What are we doing at Sharon Regional Medical Center to improve hand hygiene?

- Providing adequate opportunities and locations for our healthcare teams to complete hand hygiene, such as sinks and alcohol-based sanitizer dispensers
- Providing continual education of the importance of hand hygiene
- Reviewing the opportunities for hand hygiene at key points during patient care, including:
  - Before and after patient contact
  - Before and after contact with patient's surroundings or environment
  - After contact with blood, body fluids, or contaminated surfaces
  - Before putting on and after taking off gloves

