

Hand Hygiene Protocol for Patient Menu Collection Volunteers – Sequential Task

Hand hygiene is the responsibility of all London Health Science Centre (LHSC) staff and affiliates, including LHSC volunteers. Hand hygiene can be performed by using Alcohol Based Hand Rub (preferred) or Soap and water. Please refer to the hand hygiene information in your [Volunteer Training Package](#) for additional information and instructions on how to complete hand hygiene.

The purpose of this document is to outline the hand hygiene protocol for a sequential task.

A **sequential task** is a task that is done in a defined sequence. For example: meal tray delivery/pick-up, *menu pick-up*.

It is important to note that the task must not have an interruption of contact with the patient or their environment* during this sequence.

***Environment of the Patient:** The immediate space around a patient that may be touched by the patient and may also be touched by the health care provider when providing care. The patient environment includes equipment, medical devices, furniture (e.g., bed, chair, table), telephone, privacy curtains, personal belongings (e.g., clothes, books) and the bathroom that the patient uses. In a multi-bed room, the patient environment is the area inside the individual's curtain.

Any interruption in the task sequence requires the volunteer to comply with performing hand hygiene. Please complete hand hygiene prior to the interruption, as well as post interruption.

Examples of interruptions include:

- inadvertently touching any item within the patient environment (e.g. over-bed table, chair, supplies within the room), part of the patient room (e.g. curtain, door, chair, bed), or in the hospital environment such as items in the hallway (e.g. cart, hand rail, wheelchair)
- touching your own face
- helping a patient with completing the menu (if touching a pencil/pen or some other item in the room)

Note: The *menu* itself is not considered an interruption because paper is a poor vector for transmission.

PROCEDURE FOR SEQUENTIAL TASK:

- Hands are washed:
 - Upon entering the unit when doing room menu pick-up
 - Between corridors
 - Prior to an interruption
 - Following an interruption (touching door, touching curtains, touching patient or patient belongings, touching own face, touching handrails)
 - Post an interruption
 - When finishing the task

If a patient asks why you are not washing your hands you can reply by reassuring the patient that your hands have been sanitized before beginning the task of menu collection and have not been contaminated since beginning this task.

QUALITY MEASUREMENT: Volunteers will be trained regarding the protocol

- If non-compliance is observed this is addressed with the volunteer
- Volunteers will be refreshed regarding the protocol on an annual basis