

Hand Hygiene Policy and Procedure

Key Changes

The policy and procedure was updated to align with current AHS definitions (e.g., AHS representatives, formally employee and staff). Updates ensure proper technical language is used throughout (e.g., donning, doffing).

Should you have any questions regarding the information in the Hand Hygiene Policy and Procedure please contact the Policy and Forms Department at policy@ahs.ca.

Policy

- Updated principles to state hand hygiene aligns with AHS core values and foundational strategies.
- Added language to emphasize the importance of frequent hand hygiene. (1.1)
- Provided clarity that wall-mounted dispensers should be clearly labelled. (3.3)
- Added reference resource for managers - [Hand Health - Frequently Asked Questions](#). (4.3)
- Expansion and further clarification on appropriate nail care, including artificial nails (5.3).
- Update on examples of wrist accessories. (5.5)
- Reinforced messaging of managers' responsibility for compliance and enforcement. (6.1)

Procedure

- Updated to explicitly state that ABHR is not to be used after using the washroom. (2.1c)
- Expansion and further clarification that plain soap is needed to wash hands. (2.3)
- Clarity that tap water is **OK** to use during boil water advisory followed up by ABHR. (2.4)
- Procedure for soap and water now Section 3 – formally **Section 4**
- Procedure for ABHR now **Section 4**
- Update and clarification on how to apply ABHR and what areas need to have the application of ABHR. (4.4)
- Update language from warm water to comfortable temperature and clarity on where to apply soap (update to include wrist surfaces). (3.2)
- Increased handwashing time: 15-30 seconds. (3.3)
- Preferred used of disposable paper towel. (3.5)
- Update to include wrist surfaces. (4.4)
- Added for clarification “until hands are completely dry” or 20-30 seconds (4.5)
- Reformat Section 6 to include National Fire Code – Alberta Edition, where and clarity that wall-mounted ABHR dispensers shall be clearly labelled and installed.
- Updated Appendix for clarity.



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Hand Hygiene Program
Resource Materials

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