

Volunteers

Hospital volunteers rarely provide direct patient care. In the event that direct patient contact is encountered, volunteers must adhere to the same infection control policies as nursing personnel.

Employee Health.

- All volunteers must maintain good personal hygiene and sound physical health.
- Volunteers with a suspected infectious/communicable disease process are not allowed to work in the patient care areas.
- In the event of an inadvertent exposure to a patient with a diagnosed or suspected communicable disease or an occupational injury (i.e., needlestick), the volunteer will report this immediately to their supervisor and will be referred to Occupational Health for treatment.
- All volunteers will be screened as all other employees for Tuberculosis by Occupational Health.
- The hepatitis B immunization will be offered to all volunteers.
- The flu vaccine will be offered to all volunteers.

Handwashing.

- Good handwashing is the most critical factor to an infection control program.
- Hands must be washed before and after any patient contact and after attending to personal needs.

Isolation.

- Volunteers should not enter an isolation room or administer direct care to a patient who is on isolation and/or precautions.
- If questions arise regarding the status of patient's isolation, they will be directed to the charge nurse or the Infection Control Department.
- All personnel will follow "Universal/Standard Precautions" on all patients, regardless of their diagnosis. All patients' blood and body fluids are to be considered "potentially infectious".