

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Should I use soap and water or the alcohol based hand solution to clean my hands?

A. You can use either soap or water or an alcohol based hand solution to clean your hands.

Q. Will I see healthcare workers using the alcohol based solution?

A. Yes, during your visit to hospital you will see Healthcare workers frequently washing their hands or using an alcohol based hand solution before and after they attend to you, a relative or a friend. Healthcare workers are trained to use hand hygiene measures to prevent infection.

Q. Will the hand solution kill all the germs on my hands?

A. The alcohol based solution will kill 99.9% of the germs on your hands.

For further information contact the Eastern Health Hand Hygiene Project Officer or the Infection Control Manager. Please ask the Nurse Unit Manager for the contact details.

Interpreter Services for people with English Language Difficulties

If you would like to ask any questions about the information contained in this brochure, tell staff you need an interpreter and they will organise one for you. This service is free to you.

Eastern Health is accredited by the independent Australian Council on Healthcare Standards in recognition of the achievement of acknowledged standards, and the commitment to continuous improvement in the provision of health care services.



5 Arnold Street

Box Hill Victoria 3128, Australia

PO Box 94, Box Hill 3128

Tel: (03) 9895 3259 Fax: (03) 9895 3176

Email: info@easternhealth.org.au

Website: www.easternhealth.org.au

© Eastern Health 2008

Authorised by Eastern Health EH0908 IC007



Hand Hygiene


Information for patients, relatives and carers

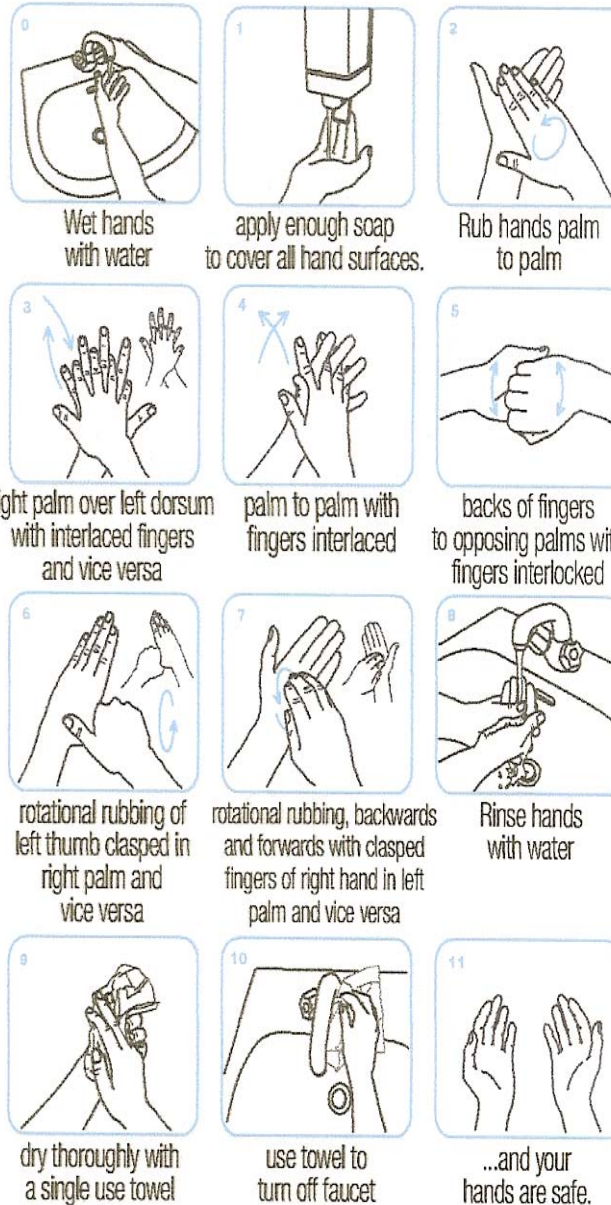


REMEMBER
you do have a right to ask
**HAVE YOU WASHED YOUR
HANDS?**

How to handwash?

WASH HANDS ONLY WHEN VISIBLY SOILED! OTHERWISE, USE HANDRUB!

 Duration of the entire procedure: 40-60 sec.



Why do we wash or clean our hands?

Washing of hands with soap and water or cleaning of hands with alcohol based solutions remove germs from our hands that may cause disease.

Removing these germs reduces the chance that we will get ill or pass an illness onto other people.

We are encouraging you to join healthcare workers in promoting this important practice by cleaning your hands on entering and after leaving our hospital.

Other opportunities for hand hygiene include:

after going to the toilet

before you eat or drink

after using tissues to wipe your nose

If you are unable to use the alcohol based hand solution for religious or cultural reasons please use soap and water to wash your hands.

How to use the alcohol based hand solution

Press the lever on the bottle to dispense a small amount of alcohol based hand solution.

Rub the solution thoroughly onto hands making sure you cover the entire surface including wrists. The solution is rubbed on until dry.

1. Squirt once onto the palm of your hand



2. Rub hands together



3. Roll over all surfaces until dry

