

The Johns Hopkins Children's Center

Preventing Infections:



You Are Part of Your Child's Health Care Team

What You Can Do

Infections can occur after many types of procedures. There are several things you can do to help protect you and your child from infection.

- **Wash your hands** often and well after using the bathroom, touching something that is soiled, or assisting your child in any patient care activity.
 - Use the **waterless hand sanitizer** located on the wall inside your child's room or outside of your child's room –**OR-** **wash with soap and water for at least 15 seconds.**
 - **Please do not hesitate to remind doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists and other staff to wash their hands and wear the required isolation garb (gown, gloves, or mask) before doing anything to your child.**
- If your child has:
 - a **dressing on a wound**, tell your nurse if it is loose or wet.
 - an IV (**intravenous catheter**), keep the dressing clean and dry. Tell your child's nurse if the dressing is loose or wet, the site is red, or your child is complaining it is painful.
 - a **urinary catheter** or **drainage tube**, tell his/her nurse if it is loose, leaking, or comes out.
- Ask friends and family not to visit if they are feeling ill.
- You may not touch or handle other patients or their toys in the Children's Center.
- You may not share your child's toys, clothing or belongings with other patients in the Children's Center.
- To prevent your child from getting pneumonia, carefully follow the instructions about breathing treatments and/or breathing exercises.
- Remember, you are part of your child's health care team. You should:
 - **Ask for help or advice**, if you have any concerns.
 - **Tell your child's nurse if your child has any swelling, reddened area, or pain!**
 - **Ask questions!** You should understand your child's treatment plan.

Following these instructions will help your child recover and protect everyone!