



KINGSTON
GENERAL
HOSPITAL



www.justcleanyourhands.ca

KGH launches ‘Just Clean Your Hands’ campaign

In August, Kingston General Hospital launched its “Just Clean Your Hands” campaign, a hand hygiene improvement program designed specifically for Ontario hospitals by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to encourage health-care providers to clean their hands the right way at the right time.

The multifaceted campaign aims to improve patient and staff safety and help prevent hospital-acquired (often referred to as nosocomial) infections. Evidence shows that higher hand hygiene compliance results in fewer infections – infections that can make people sick and contribute to higher health-care costs, longer hospital stays and readmissions.

KGH’s campaign, which closely follows the Ministry model of overcoming some of the barriers to proper hand hygiene, includes ongoing awareness, education and promotion. KGH began preparing for this campaign several months ago with the installation of more than 2,200 alcohol-based hand rub dispensers around the hospital to ensure staff, patients and visitors have access to what is needed to clean their hands when and where it is needed most: at entrances to all patient care rooms, at point-of-care and at all visitor entrances.

KGH has enlisted several staff to serve as “hand hygiene champions” to help roll out the campaign over the next several months by educating all staff on the “4 Moments for Hand Hygiene.” While it is important that everyone clean their hands regularly including when entering and exiting the building, before and after meals and before and after using the washroom, there are key times in the care process when the risk of transmission is greatest and hand hygiene is essential. It is critically important that anyone – staff or visitors - who comes into contact with patients practise the 4 moments – without exception:

1. Before initial patient/patient environment contact
2. Before aseptic (sterile) procedure
3. After body fluid exposure risk
4. After patient/patient environment contact

Hand hygiene compliance among health-care providers becomes a publicly reportable patient safety indicator as mandated by the Ministry of Health and Long Term-Care in April 2009. All Ontario hospitals will be required to post their compliance rates through a public website as part of a comprehensive plan to create an unprecedented level of transparency in hospitals. Hospitals are also now required to demonstrate participation in hand hygiene initiatives and monitor hospital infection rates to maintain their accreditation.

With better hand hygiene, hospitals can decrease infection rates, reduce costs, improve our work environment, increase patient confidence and, ultimately, save lives. Give us a hand – just clean your hands.