

Infection Control

Chemotherapy, radiation and surgery can lessen your child's ability to fight infection. Some suggestions for preventing infections in your child are described in the following sections.

Hand Washing

- Hand washing is the best way to prevent infection.
- When using soap and water rub your hands together for 10-15 seconds.
- When using antibacterial hand gel apply a nickel-size amount in the palm of your hand and rub hands together, covering all the surfaces, until the hand sanitizer dries.
- If your child is on precautions for an infection called "C-diff", **use soap and water**, as antibacterial gels do not work against "C-diff".
- Wash your hands:
 - ❖ After using the bathroom, blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - ❖ Before and after eating, drinking, or handling food
 - ❖ After touching animals
 - ❖ When your hands look or feel dirty

Preventing Infections

- **At home, school or in your community**
 - ❖ Use good personal hygiene
 - Shower or bathe daily
 - Brush teeth at least two times a day
 - Do not share cups, eating utensils, or toothbrushes
 - ❖ Handle, prepare, and store food safely:
 - Wash your hands
 - Clean kitchen surfaces and utensils before and after handling food, especially when preparing meat or poultry
 - Wash raw fruits and vegetables
 - Keep hot foods hot and cold food cold
 - Always refrigerate leftovers and items that spoil
 - Do not drink unpasteurized milk
 - Do not eat uncooked or raw meat, poultry, clams, fish, or eggs
 - ❖ When your child's blood counts are low:
 - Avoid people who are sick
 - Avoid crowded areas
 - ❖ Let the school nurse know that your child may be at an increased risk for infection. Ask to be notified of any contagious illnesses at school
 - ❖ Follow the proper directions for care of a central line or port

Infection Control

- ❖ Keep your pet healthy by visiting the veterinarian regularly and keeping their immunizations up to date. Generally birds and reptiles are discouraged as pets. If you have any questions or concerns contact your healthcare provider.
- If fever or illness develops at home, contact the treatment team right away for further instructions.

When at the hospital

- If you or your child come to the hospital with fever, cold like symptoms, diarrhea, vomiting or any other illness, please let a nurse know right away.
- Screening is required at the information desk *daily* for all visiting children under the age of 12. A GREEN dinosaur sticker is placed on children that may visit.
- Some families are concerned that other patients might have an infection. Healthcare providers can explain what measures are in place to protect your child.
- Some illnesses require a private room called an isolation room.
- If your child is on isolation:
 - ❖ Patients, siblings and visitors must remain in the isolation room.
 - ❖ Patients, siblings and visitors cannot visit common areas on the unit such as the resource room, activity room or kitchen.

- **When at clinic**

- If you or your child come to the clinic with fever, cold like symptoms, diarrhea, vomiting or any other illness, please let a clinic assistant or front desk staff know right away.
- Do not bring siblings who are sick to the clinic.
- Some families are concerned that other patients might have an infection. Healthcare providers can explain what measures are in place to protect your child.
- Some illnesses require a private room called an isolation room.
- If your child is on isolation:
 - ❖ Patients, siblings and visitors must remain in the isolation room.
 - ❖ Patients, siblings and visitors cannot visit common areas on the unit such as the resource room, activity room or kitchen.

Contact Us

For patient care assistance, please call the following phone numbers:

- Jimmy Fund Clinic (617) 632-3270
Business Hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
- Page Operator (617) 632-3352
Off hours: weekdays after 5 p.m., holidays, and weekends
- Page pediatric hematology/oncology fellow on call
- Life Threatening Emergencies dial 911