



GREMAC MAINTENANCE  
POLICIES & PROCEDURES  
**HAND HYGIENE POLICY**

Our hand hygiene policy attributes to the dedication of providing a safe and healthy work environment. This policy adheres to a multifaceted and multidisciplinary hand hygiene program that includes ongoing initiatives, and surveillance. Gremac Maintenance recognizes that hand hygiene is one of the most important strategies in preventing healthcare-associated infections and to reduce the risk of transmitting organisms from one person to another or from one area to another. This policy describes the process that is being completed to help employees overcome the barriers to proper hand hygiene and improve compliance with hand hygiene best practices.

Hand hygiene is a core element of patient safety for the prevention of health care-associated infections. An effective comprehensive hand hygiene program is based on using the right products and chemicals in the right areas at the right time. It is expected that employees and volunteers adhere to the principles outlined in this policy.

#### **TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

Gremac Maintenance is committed to providing education and visual reminders regarding indications for hand hygiene and proper hand hygiene techniques to all staff and volunteers. Employees and volunteers will receive standard hand hygiene education and training on a regular basis. Education and training will be through use of written, visual, and/or educational sessions.

#### **HAND HYGIENE SUPPLIES**

Gremac will provide the adequate supplies for all staff and volunteers to perform hand hygiene that includes the placement of alcohol-based hand rubs and appropriate supplies. ABHRs may only be used if it has an alcohol level of 70-90 percent. ABHRs are allowed for use unless/until hands are visibly soiled. If hands are visibly soiled, antimicrobial soap and water must be used to perform hand hygiene.

**Personal Protective Equipment** in relation to hand hygiene must be used and replaced when required. Hand hygiene must always be performed before putting gloves on and after taking gloves off. Hand hygiene must be performed at the start of each shift. Gloves must be discarded and replaced with a new pair after cleaning a maximum of 3 treatment rooms throughout the shift.

#### **MOMENTS FOR HAND HYGIENE**

Employees and volunteers must adhere to the moments when hand hygiene is to be performed:

1. Before beginning shift
2. After cleaning a bathroom
3. After cleaning a kitchen/kitchenette
4. After cleaning a maximum of 3 treatment rooms
5. Before and after completing 'closing shift' duties on the CDC
6. After body fluid exposure risk
7. After use of the bathroom

All jewellery should be kept to a minimum and not impact on patient safety. A Wedding ring is the **Only** jewellery item that is permitted to be worn while working on site. All broken skin areas must be covered with adhesive water resistant dressing. Artificial nails and nail polish are highly discouraged due to the ease of it harbouring microorganisms. Cream/lotion is to be applied after hand hygiene is performed with antimicrobial soap and water. The cream/lotion must be fragrance-free and non-irritating.

#### **ROUTINE SURVEILLANCE**

Routine Surveillance related to hand hygiene compliance will occur through performance inspections. Gremac Maintenance will review the results of hand hygiene compliance as part of the ongoing safety agenda of facility committees. If hand hygiene is not completed to satisfaction, the appropriate consequences will follow, this can include but is not limited to disciplinary action under the terms of their applicable contract, which could result in termination of employment or volunteer services.