

Infection Prevention and Control Policy

Version Control Sheet

VERSION	DATE OF REVIEW	IMPLEMENTED AND AUDITED BY	STATUS	COMMENTS
4	01/04/2024	Ann Kelly (Registered Manager)	Active	To be reviewed 01/04/2025

Purpose

This policy applies to all temporary nursing and healthcare staff of Clinical24 Staffing Limited working in various clinical settings.

Statement

Clinical24 Staffing Limited is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for staff, clients, and the public by implementing effective infection prevention and control measures. This policy outlines the procedures and guidelines that all workers of Clinical24 Staffing Limited must adhere to in order to prevent and control infections. This policy incorporates the latest updates and legislation from the Public Health Agency of Northern Ireland.

Procedure and Guidance

Legislation and Guidelines

- Ensure compliance with the most recent legislation, regulations, and guidelines issued by the Public Health Agency of Northern Ireland regarding infection prevention and control.
- Keep up to date with the latest updates and recommendations from reputable sources, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Hand Hygiene

- Adhere to the World Health Organization (WHO) nine-step procedure for effective handwashing, ensuring proper handwashing practices following standard precautions. (https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean_hands_protection/en/)

1. Wet hands with running water: Use clean, running water to wet your hands. Adjust the water temperature to a comfortable level.

 2. Apply enough soap: Apply enough soap to cover all surfaces of your hands. This includes the palms, back of hands, between fingers, and under the nails.

 3. Rub palms together: Rub your palms together in a circular motion, creating friction. Ensure all surfaces of your palms are covered with soap.

 4. Interlock fingers: Interlock your fingers and rub them together, ensuring the soap reaches between your fingers.

 5. Rub the back of hands: Place the back of one hand on the palm of the opposite hand. Interlock fingers and rub the back of your hands using a circular motion.

 6. Clean thumbs: Rub the thumb of one hand using the palm of the opposite hand. Rotate your thumb in a circular motion. Repeat for the other thumb.

 7. Clean fingertips: Grip your fingers with the opposing hand and rub in a circular motion. Ensure the soap reaches the fingertips and under the nails.

 8. Rinse hands thoroughly: Rinse your hands thoroughly under clean, running water. Ensure all soap is washed away.

 9. Dry hands with a clean towel or air dryer: Use a clean towel or air dryer to dry your hands completely. If using a towel, ensure it is free from contamination.
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- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers when handwashing is not immediately available or appropriate.
 - Educate staff on proper hand hygiene techniques and the importance of hand hygiene in preventing the spread of infections.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Use appropriate PPE based on the level of risk and exposure to infectious agents.
- Train staff on the correct use, donning, and doffing of PPE, including gloves, masks, gowns, and eye protection, as per the latest guidance.
- Ensure an adequate supply of PPE and maintain regular checks to uphold the availability and quality of PPE.

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection

- Implement regular cleaning and disinfection protocols for all high-touch surfaces and patient care equipment, in accordance with established guidelines.
- Ensure that staff are adequately trained on proper cleaning and disinfection techniques, including the correct use of disinfectants and equipment.
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of cleaning practices through regular audits and inspections.

Waste Management

- Dispose of healthcare waste in accordance with local regulations and guidelines, segregating waste into appropriate categories for disposal.
- Provide staff with clear instructions on waste management procedures and educate them on the importance of proper waste disposal to prevent the spread of infections.

Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette

- Promote respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette by displaying educational materials and providing guidance to staff, clients, and visitors.
- Encourage staff and patients to cover their nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using tissues or their elbow.
- Provide appropriate facilities for the disposal of used tissues and ensure regular waste disposal.

Documentation and Review

- Maintain accurate and up-to-date documentation of infection prevention and control activities, including policies, training records, audits, and incidents.

Agency Responsibilities

Health Surveillance and Reporting

- Monitor staff health and well-being by conducting regular health screenings and immunizations as required by policies and guidelines.
- Report any suspected or confirmed cases of communicable diseases or outbreaks promptly to the appropriate public health authorities and follow their instructions.

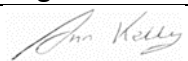
Education and Training

- Provide regular education and training to staff on infection prevention and control practices, including updates on the latest guidelines, procedures, and best practices.
- Ensure that all staff receive appropriate training and can demonstrate competency in infection prevention and control measures.

Review and Revision

This policy will be reviewed annually or as deemed necessary, taking into account any changes in legislation, internal processes, or industry best practices.

Next Review

Reviewed by:	Ann Kelly
Title:	Registered Manager
Signed:	
Last Review Date:	01/04/2024
Actions:	Address Updated

Next Review Date: April 2025