



## Personal Protective Clothing

During your time in Hospital the healthcare staff may need to wear gloves, apron/gowns and masks when providing care for you. After contact with you they will be required to remove and dispose of the items and clean their hands.

Visitors do not need to wear gloves or aprons. If you are a visitor providing direct care for a patient, ward staff will advise if gloves/ aprons are necessary. All visitors must clean their hands before and after visiting you. Visitors should not visit other patients on other wards. Visitors should sit on chairs provided and not patient beds.

## How can I contact a member of the Infection Prevention & Control Team?

Tell the Clinical Nurse Manager or nurse looking after you if you would like to speak to a member of the Infection Prevention and Control Team and they will contact us.

Additional information can be found at :  
<http://intranet.tuh.ie/departments/IPC/Pages/home.aspx>

We have made every possible effort to make sure that all the information provided in this leaflet is true, accurate, complete and up to date at the time of publication.

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**PATIENT  
INFORMATION  
LEAFLET**

# Infection Prevention & Control Team

## The Infection Prevention & Control Team (IP&CT)



The role of the Infection Prevention & Control Team (IP&CT) is to promote best infection control practice in order to ensure the delivery of a quality service for patients, visitors and staff.

The IP&CT do this by:

- Providing advice on management of patients with infections.
- Educating healthcare workers regarding potential risks of infection.
- Providing, monitoring and reviewing policies and information leaflet for the prevention and control of infection.
- Auditing infection control practices throughout the hospital.
- Communicating and providing information on infection control to the healthcare workers.
- Liaising with key stakeholders e.g. Hygiene Services, Technical Services, Bed Management and Catering regarding Infection Control standards.

## Is there a risk of catching an infection while in hospital?

- All people carry germs on their body e.g. on the skin or in the gut. When these germs spread to other parts of the body they may cause infection. Some patients may have an infectious disease that can be easily spread from person to person. Many of these germs and diseases are already present in the community.
- People vary in their ability to fight infection. If a person is elderly or has had surgery or has a poor immune system, poor general health or poor appetite, they may be more likely to pick up an infection.
- Germs spread through direct contact with skin or body fluids (for example dirty hands) or indirectly through contact with equipment or environment (for example equipment not cleaned between patients).

## The importance of clean hands

Keeping hands clean is one of the key ways to control the spread of infection in hospitals. Patients and visitors should wash their hands or use the alcohol gels provided.

**Remember it only takes 30 seconds to clean your hands!**

**All healthcare staff should clean their hands before and after contact with you.**

**If you notice a failure in this practice please feel free to ask the healthcare staff to clean their hands.**

## Isolation

You may need to be moved into a single room for isolation to limit infection spreading from person to person or for your own protection. Depending on your infection a coloured sign will be placed on your door that alerts staff to use the necessary precautions. This sign does not give details of your infection. Visitors must check with your nurse before visiting.

