

Hand Bags

Hand bags and personal belongings should not be brought into the patient environment. They should be stored in a secure place. Essential items may be kept in a hand held folder, small crossbody bag or small bag that secures around the waist, made of easy to wipe clean material.

Shoes

Shoes must be cleaned on a regular basis and kept clean and free from blood and other organic matter. Footwear in materials which cannot be adequately cleaned following blood or body fluid contamination are not suitable.

Ties & Lanyards

Ties, if worn, should be tucked away or removed if there is a risk of contact with the patient.

Lanyards are not permitted in the Hospital.

Cardigans/Fleeces

Any cardigans/fleeces worn by clinical staff must be washable, laundered regularly and not worn in clinical areas when patient contact is necessary.

Personal Medical Equipment/devices

Items such as stethoscopes which are held by the healthcare professionals must be decontaminated before and after each patient use.

Theatre and HSSD footwear must not be worn outside the work environment or in the public domain

References

Belkin N. (2001) Home laundering of soiled surgical scrubs: Surgical infections and the home environment. American journal of infection Control. 2001) February, 58-64.

Gibson L. Rose J. Haas C. (1999) use of quantitative microbial risk assessment for evaluation of the benefits of laundry sanitation. American Journal of Infection Control. 27 960 December S34-S39.

Royal Collage of Nursing (2009) Guidance on uniforms and work wear, 2nd Edition, Royal Collage Of Nursing Publishing, London.

SARI (2005) Guidelines for Hand Hygiene in Irish Healthcare Settings, HSE, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Dublin.

TUH: Uniform and Dress Code Policy (Org-Pol-19)

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

The Infection Prevention & Control Nurses are available Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm. You can email infectioncontrolnurse@tuh.ie or speak with the IPC Nurse on each level of the Hospital via the Bleep system.

IPC Nurses Bleep List per Level

Level 1 - 2210

Level 2 - 2211

Level 3 - 2609

Level 4 - 2209

The Consultant Microbiologists are on call 27 hours a day, seven days a week and can be contacted via the switchboard.



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Clinical Staff Attire



Infection, Prevention & Control recommendations on Clinical Staff Attire

The Reasons for these recommendations

Clothing that has been worn during patient contact may possibly be contaminated with micro-organisms. Therefore, all staff who wear a uniform in the clinical area should wear a freshly laundered uniform daily. Clothing should also be changed when visibly soiled or stained. Staff should wear personal protective equipment as appropriate to protect uniform/work clothing from contamination during patient care activity.

Uniforms should not be worn travelling to and from work.

Home Decontamination of Uniforms

To decontaminate clothes at home the following is recommended:

- Wash the uniforms separately to other clothes
- Do not overload washing machine
- Observe detergent instructions
- Uniforms should be washed at disinfection temperatures (on a minimum 50°C). However, follow manufacturer's guidance
- Remove items promptly from the washing machine for drying
- All clothing should be tumble dried if possible and /or ironed to further reduce any micro-organisms present

White/lab coats

Lab/white coats should be worn buttoned up, laundered at least weekly or when visibly dirty. Cuffs and long sleeves should be rolled up to facilitate hand decontamination.

Transportation of Uniforms

Freshly laundered uniforms should be brought to work in an unused clean plastic bag. Uniforms that have been worn should be brought home in a plastic bag. Staff should use the changing facilities provided.

Scrubs

The wearing of scrubs is mandatory in certain areas of the Hospital. Please follow local policy regarding the wearing of scrubs in these areas. Used scrubs provided by the Hospital, must be placed in designated laundry bins.



Hair

- Hair should be tied back appropriately. Staphylococcal aureus and other infections can be contracted by touching your hair and may be passed on to patients and staff.
- Hair coverings should be worn where there is a requirement.

Uniforms/scrub suits MUST NOT be worn outside the work environment OR in the public domain.

Hands

- Staff must be Bare Below Elbow in clinical areas. Cuffs & sleeves may become contaminated and are more likely to come into contact with patients, therefore shirt sleeves should either be short or turned up to the elbow to allow for good hand hygiene when delivering patient care.
- No jewellery, except for one plain Band is allowed in the clinical areas.
- Wrist jewellery (e.g. a watch, fit-bit or bracelet) should not be worn as they interfere with proper hand cleaning
- Nails should be kept short and unpolished
- False nails are not permitted as they may harbour bacteria

Uniforms & Scrub suits must not be worn outside the work environment or in the public domain

