Infection control standards and precautions for Assisted Living Facilities.

Infection control is one of the most frequently cited standards in a survey

Examples:
• Improper hand washing and gloving techniques.
• Hand sanitizer use or non-use.
• Lack of cleaning glucometer between uses.
• Not wearing gloves when using glucometer.
• Not washing hands between apartments.
• Failing to follow universal precautions.

Universal/Standard Precautions

Hand Hygiene:
  o Follow the CDC Guidelines
  o When hands are visibly dirty, contaminated, or soiled, wash hands with non-antimicrobial or antimicrobial soap and water.
  o If hands are not visibly soiled, use an alcohol-based handrub for routinely decontaminating hands.

When to Wash Hands:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>After caring for personal needs</th>
<th>Before and after each patient contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before eating, drinking, handling food</td>
<td>Following contact with a contaminated object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upon return from public places</td>
<td>After handling waste materials, secretions, drainage or blood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before and after shift</td>
<td>Before and after touching wounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before and wearing gloves</td>
<td>Anytime you think you may have had contact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
- Know what PPE to wear depends on what your potential exposure is: contact, splashing or airborne.

- **Gloves** for contact with blood, bodily fluids or other potentially infectious materials
  - Recommended times to wear gloves
    - Doing mouth care, suctioning
    - Bowel routine, enemas
    - Empty drainage receptacles
    - Changing linens
    - Handling specimens
    - Wound care

*Goggles anytime there is potential for splashing in eyes*

**Cleaning versus Disinfecting**
- **Asepsis**: Refers to the absence of pathogens.
- **Aseptic**: Refers to techniques to prevent contact with pathogens.
- **Disinfection**: Kills or retards the growth of germs.
- **Sterilization**: Process that kills all microorganisms.

**Equipment and Supplies**
- Use disposable when possible
- When cleaning/disinfecting equipment, supplies, etc
  - Read manufacture cleaning recommendations
  - Read facility policy and procedures
- **Solutions to disinfect**:
  - Bleach 1:10
  - 70% isopropyl alcohol
  - 3% hydrogen peroxide
  - Some commercial products (Read Labels)
- **Bleach** is an all purpose disinfectant but it can corrode metal.

**Employees Screening and Education Requirements**
- Screen employees for communicable diseases, including TB
- Initial Infection Control Education
- Annual Infection Control Training