



Hand hygiene is considered the single most important way to reduce healthcare-associated infections and is a critical component of an effective Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) program. It is therefore important the organization has an effective hand hygiene strategy in place.

# Hand Hygiene

- ✓ NS Health has a [Hand Hygiene Policy](#) which outlines our hand hygiene principles and proper hand hygiene practices. Do you know your four moments of hand hygiene?
- ✓ NS Health provides hand hygiene education to staff, service providers, and volunteers at orientation, as well as at regular intervals using a variety of educational opportunities.
- ✓ NS Health measures hand hygiene compliance by regularly auditing (direct observation) to ensure proper practices are maintained and to identify where improvements need to be made.
- ✓ Hand hygiene compliance rates are shared on a quarterly basis with staff, learners and volunteers. Do you know where to find hand hygiene compliance rates for your unit/facility? Posting the rates on your unit will help encourage awareness for staff, physicians, patients and families!
- ✓ NS Health is required to publicly report hand hygiene compliance by zone on a quarterly basis to the public and Department of Health and Wellness according to the Patient Safety Act. This information can be found at: [Public Reporting on Patient Safety](#)



ACCREDITATION  
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For more information, please review the [2020 Accreditation Canada ROP Handbook](#)