The 6 essential elements of hand hygiene™

- Advanced products
- Reliable delivery systems
- Point of care access
- Effective learning systems
- Safety culture
- Actionable feedback

Advanced products

Select a standardized product formulary that is supported by sound science and developed for high-frequency hand hygiene. Ensure that staff acceptance is widespread before implementing:

- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers
- Soaps (plain and/or antibacterial)
- Alcohol-based sanitizing wipes

Reliable delivery systems

Align placement of product dispensers with CMS, CDC, Joint Commission and WHO guidelines such as:

- Wall-mounted hand sanitizer dispensers (manual and/or touch-free) inside and outside of patient/resident rooms
- Soap dispensers at all sinks
- Touch-free dispensers on stands for entryways and other open areas
- Personal carry-size hand sanitizer bottles
- Tabletop pump bottles
- Alcohol-based sanitizing wipes in packets and canisters

Point of care access

Position hand hygiene products close to where hand hygiene moments occur:

- Outside and inside patient/resident rooms
- At the bedside
- Throughout the OR (acute care and ASCs)
- Nurses stations
- Treatment and examination rooms
- Food service, dining and food preparation areas
- Entryways and lobbies

Effective learning systems

Provide targeted education and training tools (based on behavioral science, human factors and high-reliability organizational design) to make hand hygiene best practices second nature for all:

- Organizational leadership
- Staff and volunteers
- Patients/residents, families and visitors

Ensure tools emphasize proper technique at every moment:

- Before and after touching the patient/resident and/or their surroundings
- Before and after patient/resident care tasks
- Before and after personal activities such as eating, handling a cell phone or device and using the restroom
- Deploy facility-wide reminders such as posters and tent cards

Safety culture

Foster a safety culture that embraces:

- Leadership engagement and modeling of expected hand hygiene behaviors
- Psychological safety— everyone feels safe to speak up when a hand hygiene opportunity is missed
- A top-down accountability framework with a unit-based approach for barrier removal, action planning and goal setting

Actionable feedback

Implement best practices for collecting and analyzing data, and understand how to pinpoint where improvement is needed:

- Reliable performance measurement methods (e.g., electronic hand hygiene compliance monitoring) and timely, actionable feedback
- Individual hand hygiene report cards for frontline staff