

# Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Infection Prevention and Control Measures

This SOP details **infection prevention and control measures** designed to reduce the risk of infection transmission within healthcare settings. It covers hand hygiene protocols, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), environmental cleaning and disinfection, waste management, isolation procedures, and staff training requirements. The objective is to maintain a safe environment for patients, healthcare workers, and visitors by implementing effective infection control practices and minimizing the spread of infectious agents.

## 1. Purpose

To implement and maintain effective infection prevention and control (IPC) measures aimed at minimizing the risk of infection transmission within the healthcare facility.

## 2. Scope

This SOP applies to all healthcare workers, patients, visitors, and contractors within the facility.

## 3. Responsibilities

- **Healthcare Workers:** Comply with all IPC measures outlined in this SOP.
- **Supervisors/Managers:** Monitor adherence, provide resources, and address non-compliance.
- **IPC Team:** Review and update SOP regularly, provide training, and conduct audits.

## 4. Procedure

### 4.1 Hand Hygiene

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand rub (minimum 60% alcohol) before and after patient contact, after removing gloves, and after contact with potentially contaminated surfaces.
- Hand hygiene facilities must be available at points of care and in high-traffic areas.

### 4.2 Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Appropriate PPE (e.g., gloves, masks, gowns, eye protection) must be worn based on risk assessment and specific tasks.
- PPE must be disposed of safely following facility protocols after use.

### 4.3 Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection

- Frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles, bed rails, light switches) must be cleaned and disinfected at least twice daily.
- Use approved disinfectants effective against healthcare-associated pathogens.

### 4.4 Waste Management

- Segregate and dispose of waste following facility and national guidelines.
- Use color-coded bags and containers for infectious, non-infectious, and sharps waste.

4.5 Isolation Procedures

- Prompt identification and isolation of patients with suspected or confirmed infectious diseases.
- Post clear signage and restrict access as necessary.

4.6 Staff Training

- All staff must receive regular IPC training and updates, including the correct use of PPE, hand hygiene, cleaning protocols, and emergency procedures.

5. Documentation and Record Keeping

- Maintain records of staff IPC training, cleaning schedules, PPE inventory, and incident reports.

6. Monitoring and Compliance

- Conduct regular audits of IPC practices and provide feedback.
- Address non-compliance with corrective action and refresher training.

7. Review and Update

- This SOP will be reviewed annually or as needed in response to emerging infectious threats or updated guidelines.

8. References

- WHO Guidelines on Core Components of Infection Prevention and Control Programmes
- National Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines
- Facility-Specific Policies and Procedures

9. Approval

Name	Designation	Signature	Date