

# INFECTION CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Infection prevention and control programs protect residents from preventable harm, injury, and death. Infections continue to be a leading cause of death, needless suffering, and expense among nursing home residents.

## Standards of Care

- **Implement an infection prevention and control program.** Nursing homes must have a “system for preventing, identifying, reporting, investigating, and controlling infections.”
- **Develop written policies and procedures.** Nursing homes are required to have policies to address infections, such as providing instructions on how to determine whether someone is infected.
- **Record incidents.** Nursing homes must implement a system for documenting incidents and corrective actions.
- **Practice the safe management of linens.** Nursing homes “must handle, store, process, and transport linens so as to prevent the spread of infection.”
- **Conduct annual reviews of the program.** Nursing homes must review their infection control policies every year and update as necessary.

## Resources

1. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) advises staff to clean their hands. See <https://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/quality-resources/tools/cauti-ltc/modules/resources/guides/infection-prevent.html>.
2. LTCCC issue alert describing federal requirements for infection control in nursing homes. See <https://nursinghome411.org/ltccc-issue-alert-infection-control-prevention/>.
3. LTCCC Report finds that infection control deficiencies were cited more than other deficiencies over a three year period, based on Nursing Home Compare data. See <http://nursinghome411.org/identification-of-resident-harm-in-nursing-home-citations/>.