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12VAC5-371-180. Infection control.

A. The nursing facility shall establish and maintain an infection control program designed to provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment and to prevent the development and transmission of disease and infection.

B. The infection control program shall encompass the entire physical plant and all services.

C. The infection control program addressing the surveillance, prevention and control of facility wide infections shall include:

1. Procedures to isolate the infecting organism;
2. Access to handwashing equipment for staff;
3. Training of staff in proper handwashing techniques, according to accepted professional standards, to prevent cross contamination;
4. Implementation of universal precautions by direct resident care staff;
5. Prohibiting employees with communicable diseases or infections from direct contact with residents or their food, if direct contact will transmit disease;
6. Monitoring staff performance of infection control practices;
7. Handling, storing, processing and transporting linens, supplies and equipment in a manner that prevents the spread of infection;
8. Handling, storing, processing and transporting regulated medical waste in accordance with applicable regulations;
9. Maintaining an effective pest control program; and
10. Staff education regarding infection risk-reduction behavior.

Statutory Authority

§§[32.1-12](#) and [32.1-127](#) of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 13, Issue 17, eff. July 1, 1997.

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