



**Simulation:** Demonstrate Spread of Pathogens When Hand Hygiene Not Performed

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Max number of people per station:** 10

**Number of facilitators per station:** 1 or more

**Supplies Needed:**

- Gloves (one pair per person)
- Washable non-toxic paint or fluorescent powder
- Black light (if using fluorescent powder)
- Wet wipes (one package)
- Paint brush (if using paint)
- Equipment for participants to touch

### Steps to Perform Simulation

1. Facilitator discusses importance of cleaning hands prior to donning gloves.
2. Facilitator will “contaminate” hands of participants with fluorescent powder or paint, then instruct participants to put on gloves. Assess contamination of gloves by visual inspection once donned. Use black light to detect fluorescent powder, if used.
3. Facilitator will place fluorescent powder or paint on hands and instruct participants to touch items. Assess contamination of items by visual inspection. Use black light to detect fluorescent powder, if used.

### Debriefing Script\*:

**Facilitator:** Thank you for participating in this debriefing session about the importance of performing hand hygiene prior to entering a patient area and before donning gloves. Let's discuss the key points and address any questions or concerns you may have.

**Question 1:** What is the primary purpose of performing hand hygiene prior to donning gloves?

**Answer:** The primary purpose of performing hand hygiene prior to donning gloves is to clean the hands of germs.

**Question 2:** How does hand hygiene prior to donning gloves prevent contamination?

**Answer:** Cleaning hands prior to donning gloves removes germs from hands so that the gloves remain clean. Hands that have not been cleaned properly allow transmission of germs to the glove box, the gloves, and the patient and his/her environment.

**Question 3:** What is the primary purpose of performing hand hygiene prior to touching patients and their environment?

**Answer:** The primary purpose of performing hand hygiene prior to touching a patient or his/her environment is to remove germs and prevent the spread of germs.

**Question 4:** How can failure to perform hand hygiene contribute to the spread of germs?

**Answer:** Failing to perform hand hygiene prior to touching a patient or their environment allows germs on your hands to transfer to the patient or his/her environment.

**Facilitator:** Thank you for your participation. Understanding the importance of performing hand hygiene prior to touching a patient or his/her environment and prior to donning gloves is essential to preventing the spread of infection. If you have any further questions or need clarification on any topic, please feel free to ask.

**\*Disclaimer:** Please follow this debriefing script. The skill of debriefing is a process that takes time and experience to learn. Please do not use these debriefing tools outside of this situation without appropriate knowledge and experience.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021, January 8). Retrieved from Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings: <https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/providers/index.html>

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Voss, A., & Widmer, A. (1997, March 18). No time for handwashing!? Handwashing versus alcoholic rub: can we afford 100% compliance? *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*, 205-08. Retrieved from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/9090551/>

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