

Infection prevention and control department

Infection prevention and control

Our goal

Our overall objective is to promote the health and wellbeing of patients and staff by the surveillance, prevention and control of hospital infection.

We regularly inspect all areas of the hospital to ensure high standards of cleanliness and that all staff are complying with infection prevention and control procedures. The inspection team includes representatives from the domestic team and facilities department, along with a modern matron and an infection control nurse. Together we can work to put right any problems.

During your visit, if you have any concerns about the cleanliness of ward areas, please discuss these with the ward manager or matron who will be able to deal with any issues.

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.

Contact The Christie Hotline for urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Make infection prevention your intention

- Clean your hands before eating and after using the bathroom. Use a wipe if you can't get to the bathroom. It's okay to ask staff if you haven't seen them clean their hands.
- A clean environment helps to prevent infection. Please allow our domestic staff to access your bed area or room and try to keep your areas uncluttered.
- Antibiotics are used to treat infection. Always take antibiotics as prescribed by your doctor.
- Intravenous lines and other devices like catheters can provide a direct route for bugs into the body. Don't let anyone touch your line or device without cleaning their hands first.
- The mouth and gut are sources of bacteria which can cause infection. Keep your mouth clean by brushing your teeth regularly.
- Hydration helps prevent infection. You should be drinking about half a cup every hour unless you are fluid-restricted.
- Get out of bed and get moving as soon as possible. This reduces your risk of a chest infection and blood clots in your legs.
- Ask your visitors not to come in if they are feeling sick.

When you go home

- Your immune system may have been affected by your treatment, leaving you more vulnerable to infections than usual. You should talk to your medical team about any food you should avoid when you go home.
- When you first go home, it may be advisable to keep your distance from pets. It is also sensible to avoid anyone who has 'flu-like' symptoms, coughs, colds or other signs of infection.
- At home a clean environment is important, and so is good personal hygiene, in preventing infection. You can continue to practise good hand hygiene and encourage others around you to do the same.
- If you have any questions about infections, you can talk to your healthcare provider who can contact the infection prevention and control team for further advice if required.

Useful websites

NHS Choices provides information about specific infections
www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx

Click on the Health A-Z link for more information.