
Reducing your risk of **infection**



Information for patients

smoke-free
hospitals

Reducing your risk of infection

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has an excellent track record of keeping levels of infection down. The risk of getting an infection whilst receiving care at the Northern General, Royal Hallamshire, Weston Park, Jessop Wing and Charles Clifford Dental hospitals is very low.* Stories about MRSA and clostridium difficile are often featured in newspapers and on television and can be in the public interest. However, these stories can also cause unnecessary anxiety and stress for those coming into hospital. In fact both of these germs can live in the environment without causing harm but can cause illness and spread easily in situations where many people are in close contact with each other.

What are we doing to reduce the risk of infection?

- We employ a dedicated team of skilled doctors and nurses who specialise in infection prevention and control.
- We provide hand hygiene facilities at every ward entrance and every bedside for patients, visitors and staff to use.
- We provide aprons and gloves and encourage staff to wear them when carrying out specific clinical care duties.
- We have put in a system where we check some patients for certain infections as soon as they come into hospital.

** For every day you are in one of our hospitals, you have less than 1 in 1,000 chance of getting clostridium difficile and less than 1 in 10,000 chance of getting an MRSA blood stream infection.*

- We have introduced a new, comprehensive assessment scheme where wards are checked against rigorous infection control standards.
- We closely monitor our infection rates on a daily basis.
- We have a ward cleaning programme in place where periodically, wards are emptied completely and cleaned from top to bottom to make sure they are scrupulously clean.

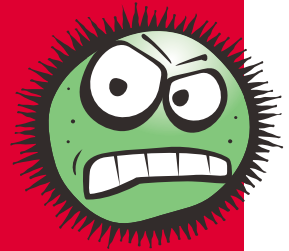
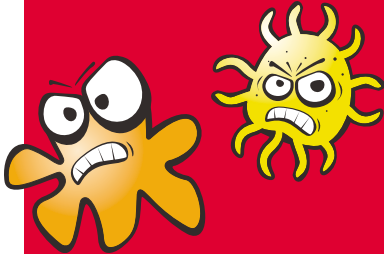
What can you do to reduce the risk of infection to yourself and others?

- **Use the hand cleaning facilities** at every ward entrance and every bedside and encourage your visitors to do so as well.
- **Ask the staff caring for you whether they have washed their hands** – they really do not mind and are expecting you to ask them.
- **Alternatively you can display the back of this leaflet on your bedside locker or bed table to remind everyone around you to wash their hands.**
- **Follow the points in the Visitors' Code.** The signs at every ward entrance will tell you more about what this means for you.

**Thank you for taking time to read the leaflet.
We hope you feel better soon.**



Please ensure
that you wash
your hands
before you
care for me!



Thank you

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