

The hospital has a duty of care to provide a safe hygienic environment for patients, staff and visitors

- Our infection control team have in place a range of precautions to reduce the potential for micro-organisms to spread
- Timely hand hygiene is the key to the prevention and control of infection
- Antibiotics are not always needed and can only treat infections caused by bacteria.

How can I obtain more information?

- Speak with your appointed nurse
- Liaise with the Senior Nursing Team
- Contact the local unit of the Health Protection Agency.

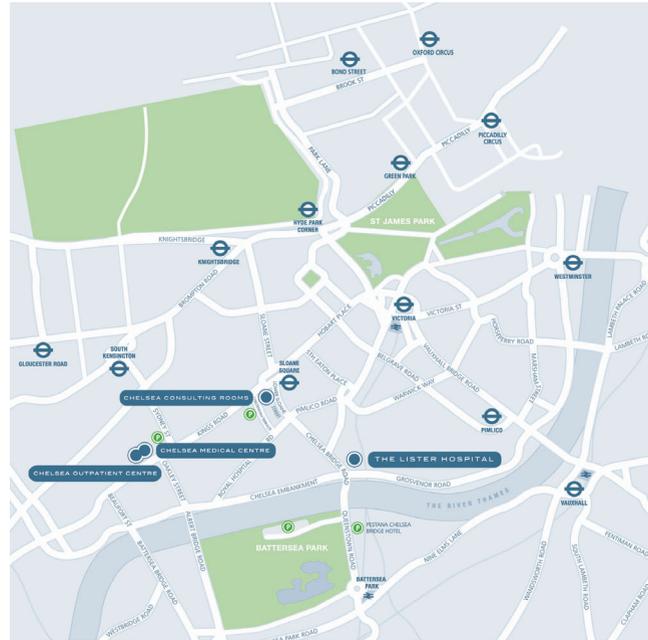
Find out more online at www.hpa.org.uk

- We also have other leaflets on specific infections i.e. MRSA. Please ask your nurse for a copy.

If you have any further questions, the Infection Prevention & Control Nurse or a member of the Senior Nursing team will be pleased to assist you.



Map



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Patient Information Leaflet Infection Control

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THE LISTER HOSPITAL
chelsea

part of **HCA**Healthcare uk

What is Infection Control?

“The term infection is generally used to refer to the deposition and multiplication of bacteria and other micro-organisms in tissues or on surfaces of the body with associated tissue reaction.”

Ayliffe et al, 2000

Cross contamination means infection acquired in a healthcare premises, either from other patients, staff or equipment. Infection control is the introduction of systems, processes and procedures to prevent the acquisition of infection were possible and reduce the spread of existing infection to others.

What precautions do we take?

The Lister Hospital Management team are committed to protecting your health and safety whilst in our care. All our staff are trained to follow a set of standard principles for the prevention and control of infections. These include:

- Regular hand hygiene
- Use of protective clothing, where needed i.e. gloves, aprons and masks
- Safe storage and management of linen, waste and sharp items
- Knowledge of isolation procedures
- Good environmental cleaning
- Thorough decontamination of shared equipment.

Who are the Infection Control Team?

The Lister Hospital has a dedicated Infection Control team to assist the management and your consultant with the identification and management of infected patients arriving from the community and those who have a healthcare associated infection.

The team consists of an Infection Prevention & Control Lead, a Consultant Microbiologist/Infection Control Doctor and a group of link practitioners. The team liaise widely with all hospital departments and external advisers as required. An occupational health nurse ensures all our staff are fit and healthy to work in our premises.

How do we find infections?

Specimens and samples are taken and sent to our laboratories for examination. If any micro-organisms are identified, ward doctors and nurses are informed promptly and the patient is treated and managed as per national guidelines.

What if I get an infection?

Your doctor and nurse will discuss this with you and explain what is needed. You may be asked to stay in your room as it is important to isolate the micro-organism you have and prevent it spreading to others. This does not mean you are seriously ill; it is just the recognised method of infection control.

For many infections it will be possible for you to walk in the corridor and even outside but you will be asked not to sit in other patient rooms or public reception areas.

You may notice that staff caring for you are wearing protective clothing and washing their hands often.

You will be instructed if you need to take any extra precautions. You can help by washing your hands thoroughly after using the toilet and before eating, as you would at home.

Can I still have visitors?

Yes, if you have an infection and are isolated you can still have visitors, but numbers may have to be restricted.

Children should be discouraged from coming to see you, as they may be particularly susceptible to hospital infections and can be carrying childhood illnesses i.e. chickenpox.

Friends or relatives who have any infection i.e. influenza, colds, diarrhoea or vomiting should not visit. The ward staff will advise about any special precautions that are necessary. Visitors will be asked to wash and dry their hands after visiting you. If they help with your care and their clothes could become contaminated; they will be encouraged to wear gloves and aprons.

If you have any soiled clothing, this should be transported home in a plastic carrier bag and washed separately on the highest setting that the fabric can be washed at.

Household gloves should be worn when handling soiled washing at home. These should be rinsed after use with soap and water, and hands thoroughly washed and dried after removal.