

Hand Hygiene and Bag Technique



VNS Health Personal Care is preparing for the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) triennial recertification survey.

Protect yourself and your patients with proper hand hygiene, which includes diligently cleaning and trimming fingernails.

Hand washing with soap and water

Soap and water should be used when:

- Hands are visibly dirty
- After using the restroom
- When providing care to a patient with **C.diff**

1. Wet hands using comfortably warm water.
2. Apply enough soap to cover all surfaces.
3. Rub hands together for 15-20 seconds covering all surfaces.
4. Rinse with water.
5. Dry hands thoroughly with a towel. If using a single use paper towel, use it to turn of faucet.

Nail and Skin Care

- Do not wear artificial nails.
- Keep fingernails $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or shorter.
- To avoid irritant contact dermatitis, use hand lotions or creams.

Using alcohol-based sanitizer

Alcohol-based hand sanitizer:

- Should be used if hands are not visibly dirty.
 - Should be at least 60% alcohol.
 - Kills bacteria more effectively and quickly.
 - Causes less dryness and irritation of skin.
 - Requires less time for use.
 - Does not require use of patient sink or running water.
1. Apply a palm-full of product in a cupped hand.
 2. Rub hands together for 15-20 seconds covering all surfaces.
 3. If hands get dry in less than 15-20 seconds, apply more sanitizer and repeat.



Hand Hygiene and Bag Technique



Proper bag technique minimizes the risk of pathogen transmission. If using a non-VNS Health provided bag, select one that has multiple closeable compartments.

Items that require separate, closable compartments:

- Hand Hygiene Items
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Personal Items
- Reusable items
- Single-use and Sterile Supplies
- Sharps container
- Agency-provided tablets and phones

Keep the visit bag clean and dry

- Clean and disinfect visit bag, inside and outside, at least weekly and when visibly dirty.
- If visibly dirty, wash with soap/detergent and water before disinfecting.
- Store in a clean dry area of car or home, free of food, dirt, and moisture.
- Check for and remove expired supplies.

You may be asked to show the bag storage area of your car during the survey.

Visit Bag placement during home visit

- Place in a well-lit, clean and dry hard surface away from pests, pets, dirty items, children, or heating/vents with air flow.
- If the surface is dirty or wet, clean and disinfect the surface first. Use a waterproof barrier.
- Consider hanging the bag on the back of a chair or doorknob.
- Do not place a rolling bag on furniture.

