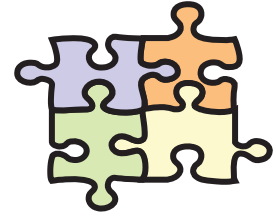


# Infection Connection

"The Intent is to Prevent"



April 2010



## Flu Shots for Everyone Next Flu Season Including YOU!

In February the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted that **everyone** 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine next season. CDC voted for "universal" flu vaccination in the U.S. to expand protection against the flu to more people. Next season's vaccine will protect against the 2009 H1N1 pandemic virus and 2 other flu viruses.

### **SAVE THE DATE: LVHN COMMUNITY INFLUENZA VACCINATION CLINICS**

November 6, 2010: Dorney Park

November 7, 2010: Iron Pigs

## Early Warning Signs of *C.difficile* Infection - Be a Patient Advocate

*Clostridium difficile* (C.diff) is the bacterium that causes diarrhea that can lead to serious intestinal problems. It is also known to be transmitted from patient to patient within health care settings resulting in health care associated infections. Recognizing early warning signs of C.diff is important to identify patients that need contact isolation and to alert physicians for early diagnosis and treatment.

Signs of infection include:

- Frequent watery diarrhea (often foul-smelling)
- Abdominal pain or cramping
- Fever
- Nausea and loss of appetite

If you recognize these signs in your patient, be an advocate and communicate these findings to the physician **as soon as possible**.

## Bed Cleaning - Would You Sleep in That Bed?

It is imperative for the protection of our patients that beds are cleaned PRIOR to placing them in storage. This applies to LVHN beds as well as rental beds. In addition assure that all other patient care items (BP cuffs and restraints) are removed prior to storage.

## Mask-Up for Spinal Procedures including Lumbar Puncture



A recent report in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on bacterial meningitis after intrapartum spinal anesthesia underscores the requirement for health-care providers to wear a surgical mask when either placing a catheter or injecting material into the spinal canal or epidural space. Although reports of meningitis after spinal anesthesia is not new; these cases serve to remind providers the importance of wearing surgical masks to prevent contamination of the procedural site and/or equipment with the operator's oral flora.

## Communication Communication Communication

Protect your colleagues from inadvertent exposure to communicable diseases. Assure that the transporter communication sheet is completed and reflects **ANY ISOLATION** precautions. In addition assure that an isolation sign remains on the door of an isolated patient that is discharged **UNTIL** the room has been appropriately cleaned.

## Volunteers in Isolation Rooms = Not a Good Mix

Our volunteers are valuable to LVHN. In an effort to protect our volunteers from communicable diseases, volunteers are **not** permitted in isolation rooms to perform **any tasks**.

## IC&P Staff Liaison List

Please click on the link for the Infection Control & Prevention Department Staff Liaison List - <http://lvhwebcontent.lvh.com/?id=1878&sid=1>

## Isolation Caddies and Cough Etiquette Stations...Beyond the Flu

Although spring is right around the corner, it's no reason to let your isolation caddies and cough etiquette stations go bare. All departments are responsible to ensure caddies and stations are fully stocked at all times. Please click on the link for cough etiquette station ordering information - <http://lvhwebcontent.lvh.com/?id=1879&sid=1>



### SAGE Comfort Bath (Bath-in-a-Bag) Provides Safety & Comfort

Evidence based research demonstrated a decrease in infections associated with eliminating the traditional bath basin, soap and water. Please encourage your staff to utilize the Comfort Bath product for the comfort and safety of our patients. An important **REMINDER** is that the Comfort Bath products are **NOT FLUSHABLE** and must be disposed in the regular trash. In addition do **NOT** use the Comfort Bath product to clean an incontinent patient. Please use regular or disposable washcloths along with the recommended skin care products to protect and prevent breakdown of the patient's skin.

\*Critical Care Units should continue to utilize the **CHG wipes** as the bathing product for all patients.

## New TB Screening Cards Have Arrived!

The TB screening cards with the new LVHN logo are now available. Please order by contacting Amber Kucher - [Amber\\_L.Kucher@lvhn.org](mailto:Amber_L.Kucher@lvhn.org) or 610-402-0177.

## Environmental Rounds Help You to Remain EverReady

As you may have noticed, some of the Infection Control Practitioners have begun performing Environmental Rounds on your units. Their findings will be sent to the Unit Director via email. Please click on the link for the Environmental Rounds Checklist - <http://lvhwebcontent.lvh.com/?id=1877&sid=1>

## Another Reason NOT to Smoke - Updated Screening Criteria for Pneumococcal Vaccine

Adults aged 19-64 who **smoke cigarettes** are now recommended to receive pneumococcal vaccine (PPV). Adults who smoke cigarettes are at substantially increased risk for invasive pneumococcal diseases. Health care practitioners are also reminded that **asthma** is to be considered a chronic pulmonary disease. Persons aged 19 through 64 who have asthma or smoke cigarettes should receive a single dose of PPV. Refer to the Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccination policy in the Patient Care Administrative Policy manual for a full list of indications.



## Disposable Supplies - Waste Not, Want Not

Gentle reminder – it is important to be fiscally responsible and limit the amount of extra supplies stocked in our patient's rooms. Supplies sealed in packages with the integrity intact or stored in drawers do NOT automatically get discarded when an isolation patient is discharged. Prevent this unnecessary waste by avoiding the stockpiling of supplies.

## Know Your Drying Time?

Virex 256 – QUAT disinfectant – 9 minutes  
Expose – Phenolic disinfectant – 9 minutes  
Dispatch – 2 minutes  
Asepti-Wipes – 2 minutes

**Wishing everyone a Happy Spring!**

