

### Hand Washing Protocol

This is a proven step in preventing the transmission of infectious agents! Personnel having patient contact should maintain short fingernails.

- ☑ Hands must be washed before and after attending to each individual animal. It is a good idea to develop the habit of washing your hands as soon as you enter an exam room.
- ☑ Gloves do provide an additional level of protection, but they can still have holes in them. Wash hands when the gloves are removed.
- ☑ Hands should also be washed after removal of any other forms of protective clothing.

#### Hand washing procedure:

If hands are free of gross contamination (i.e. not visibly dirty)

1. Pump an aliquot of alcohol gel into the palm of one hand.
2. Rub gel over all surfaces of the hands for 30 seconds and allow hands to air dry.

If hands are grossly contaminated (i.e. visibly dirty):

When possible, use hands-free operation sinks:

1. Pump antiseptic soap onto hands and wash for at least **30 seconds**, including fingernails
2. Use a surgical brush and nail cleaner if nails are particularly soiled
3. Use paper towels to dry hands

At regular sinks:

1. Collect clean paper towels
2. Wash hands for **30 seconds** with antiseptic soap—including under fingernails
3. Use a surgical brush and nail cleaner if nails are particularly soiled
4. Rinse hands
5. Use paper towel to dry hands, and use paper towel to turn off tap

Do not touch clean areas (i.e., doorknobs, drawer or cabinet handles or contents, equipment, or medical records) with soiled hands or gloves.