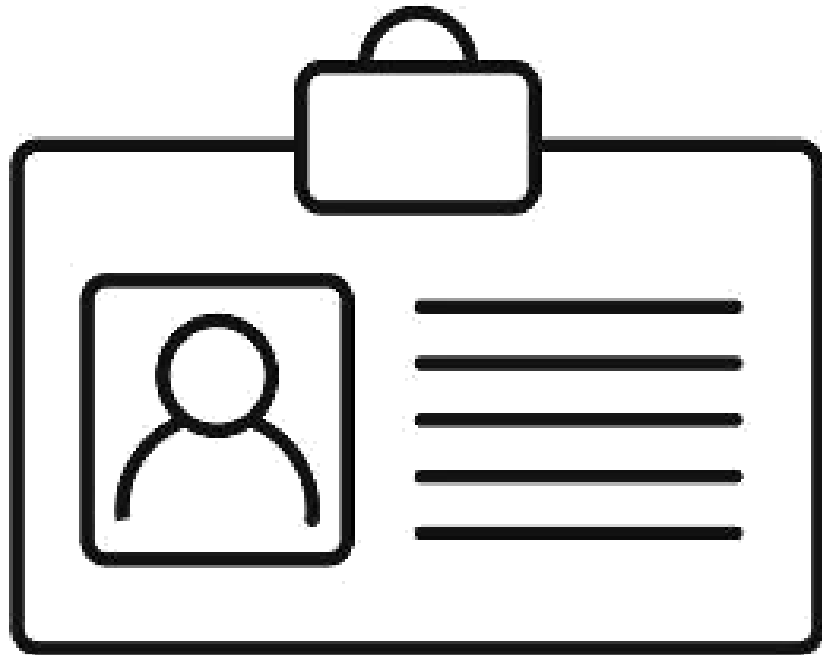




Georgia Department of Public Health:  
Strike & Support Team  
GADPH Office Hours for ALFs & PCHs  
March 24, 2023

# Meet the Team



## Presenter:

**Sue Cox Milligan, MHA, BSHW, RN, CBN, CHSP**

Acute Disease Epidemiology

Infection Preventionist

Georgia Department of Public Health

## Sue Cox Milligan, MHA, BSHW, RN, CBN, CHSP

Sue Milligan has been an RN for 38 years. Areas of work include oncology nursing, quality management, and serving as a beta test site with Auburn University. More recently, she has worked as an inspector granting COE in several surgical specialties both here and abroad. Her passion is sharing research and providing guidance on best practice. She believes everyone deserves to be treated safely.

# Thank You to Our Partners

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia



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# Infection Prevention and Control Measures

## Assisted Living Facilities and Personal Care Homes Part I: Hand Hygiene

Sue Cox Milligan, MHA BSHW RN CBN CHSP CHC  
March 24, 2023



# Core Principles of Infection Prevention and Control

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- Consider screening all visitors, vendors and staff for COVID-19 and/or other illnesses before entering the facility
- Consider requesting that visitors who meet any of the criteria below not be admitted:
  - A positive COVID-19 test
  - Exhibiting S&S of COVID-19
  - Currently meeting the criteria for quarantine
- Practice good hand hygiene (HH)

- Implement respiratory etiquette (Cover Your Cough)
- Consider social distancing for communal activities
- Consider instructional signage (i.e., HH, use of masks, signs and symptoms of illness including COVID, donning and doffing and disposal of used masks)
- Implement regular cleaning and disinfection of the environment and shared equipment
- Consider COVID testing for symptomatic residents and staff

# Pillars of Infection Prevention and Control



# How Germs Spread

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- Washing hands can keep you healthy and prevent the spread of respiratory and diarrheal infections.
  - Germs can spread from person to person or from surface to person when you:
    - Touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
    - Prepare or eat food and drinks with unwashed hands.
    - Touch surfaces or objects that have germs on them.
    - Blow your nose, cough, or sneeze into your hands and then touch other people's hands or common objects.
- Hand hygiene/handwashing is a way of cleaning one's hands that substantially reduces potential pathogens (harmful microorganisms) on the hands.
- **Hand hygiene is considered a primary measure for reducing the risk of transmitting infection among individuals.**



# Two Methods of Cleaning Hands

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1. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers (ABHRs) are the preferred method for cleaning your hands and are appropriate in most situations.
2. Washing hands with soap and water whenever they are visibly dirty before eating and after using the restroom.



# How Does Soap Work To Remove Germs (Pathogens) During the Handwashing Process?

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- **Soap and water does not kill germs. They work by mechanically removing them from your hands.**
- Running water by itself does a decent job of pathogen removal, but soap allows you to tackle the hard-to-remove germs by acting like a crowbar.

## Key Times to Wash Hands

You can help yourself and your loved ones stay healthy by washing your hands often, especially during these key times when you are likely to get and spread germs:

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before and after eating food
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After using the toilet
- After [changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet](#)
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage



❖ Before and after wearing gloves

## Follow Five Steps to Wash Your Hands the Right Way

Washing your hands is easy, and it's one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Clean hands can help stop germs from spreading from one person to another and in our communities—including your home, workplace, schools, and childcare facilities.

Follow these five steps every time.

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

[Why? Read the science behind the recommendations.](#)



<https://www.cdc.gov/hygiene/personal-hygiene/hands.html#:~:text=Washing%20hands%20can%20keep%20you,and%20drinks%20with%20unwashed%20hands>

# When To Use Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer

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- Before and after resident encounters, unless the person is sick with *Clostridioides difficile* (CDI) (if so, use soap and water to wash hands).
- The preferred method of cleaning hands in most situations is ABHRs.
- Use ABHRs that contain at least 60% alcohol.
- Do NOT use ABHRs if hands are visibly dirty or greasy. For example, after gardening, playing outdoors, fishing, or camping. Wash hands with soap and water as soon as possible.

## How to Use Hand Sanitizer

- 1. Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).**
- 2. Rub your hands together.**
- 3. Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.**

Sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in many situations. However,

- Sanitizers do not get rid of all types of germs.
- Hand sanitizers may not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy.
- Hand sanitizers might not remove harmful chemicals from hands like pesticides and heavy metals.



Do NOT rinse or wipe off the sanitizer before it's dry; it may not work well against germs.

# Keep HH Signage Fresh and Eye-Catching



# CDC's Communication Materials

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- Links to fact sheets on handwashing-related topics that can be displayed in public places or distributed to specific audience groups. To order FREE printed copies of selected publications, visit [CDC-INFO On Demand](#).
  - Posters
  - Stickers
  - Videos
  - Podcast
- Partners, organizations and individuals can download the social media graphics below and use them with [sample social media messages](#) to promote the importance of handwashing in community settings.





# Is Antibacterial Soap Better Than Plain Soap?

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- Both bar and liquid soap work well to remove germs.
- Use plain soap in either bar or liquid form to wash your hands.
  - Bar soap should not be shared among staff and/or residents.
  - Studies have not found any added health benefit from using antibacterial soap other than for health care settings.
  - Some studies have shown that antibacterial soap may contribute to antibiotic resistance.

# Where and How To Place ABHR Dispensers

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- ABHR needs to be readily available to support HH compliance.
  - Common areas
  - Lobby
  - Staff work areas
  - ABHR dispensers should be mounted in compliance with regulations

# How High Should a Hand Sanitizer Dispenser Be Placed?

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- Soap and ABHR dispensers should not be placed higher than 44 inches if the reach depth (counter) is more than 20 inches but not more than 25 inches in depth.
- When there is nothing on the floor to obstruct access to the hand sanitizer dispenser, it needs to be no higher than 48 inches from the floor (and not lower than 15 inches).

# Pocket Sanitizers

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- ABHR kept in a pocket or clipped onto a health care worker will become contaminated.
  - Product inside the container is still effective.
    - Using the proper steps to access these types of ABHR containers is critical.
    - The outside of the ABHR bottle should be cleaned before placing it back into the pocket to reduce contamination of clothing.
- ABHR and soap containers or dispensers should not be refilled.

# Pillars of Infection Prevention and Control



# Questions?



# Georgia Department of Public Health HAI Team Contacts

State Region/Districts	Contact Information
<p>North (Rome, Dalton, Gainesville, Athens) Districts 1-1, 1-2, 2, 10</p>	<p><u><a href="mailto:Sue.bunnell@dph.ga.gov">Sue.bunnell@dph.ga.gov</a></u> (404-967-0582)</p>
<p>Atlanta Metro (Cobb-Douglas, Fulton, Clayton, Lawrenceville, DeKalb, LaGrange) Districts 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 4</p>	<p><u><a href="mailto:Teresa.Fox@dph.ga.gov">Teresa.Fox@dph.ga.gov</a></u> (256-293-9994) <u><a href="mailto:Renee.Miller@dph.ga.gov">Renee.Miller@dph.ga.gov</a></u> (678-357-4797)</p>
<p>Central (Dublin, Macon, Augusta, &amp; Columbus) Districts 5-1, 5-2, 6, 7</p>	<p><u><a href="mailto:Theresa.Metro-Lewis@dph.ga.gov">Theresa.Metro-Lewis@dph.ga.gov</a></u> (404-967-0589) <u><a href="mailto:Karen.Williams13@dph.ga.gov">Karen.Williams13@dph.ga.gov</a></u> (404-596-1732)</p>
<p>Southwest (Albany, Valdosta) Districts 8-1, 8-2</p>	<p><u><a href="mailto:Connie.Stanfill1@dph.ga.gov">Connie.Stanfill1@dph.ga.gov</a></u> (404-596-1940)</p>
<p>Southeast (Savannah, Waycross) Districts 9-1, 9-2</p>	<p><u><a href="mailto:Lynn.Reynolds@dph.ga.gov">Lynn.Reynolds@dph.ga.gov</a></u> (804-514-8756)</p>
<p>Backup/Nights/Weekends</p>	<p><u><a href="mailto:Joanna.Wagner@dph.ga.gov">Joanna.Wagner@dph.ga.gov</a></u> (404-430-6316)</p>

Thank You for Your Time!  
Contact the AHS Patient Safety Team



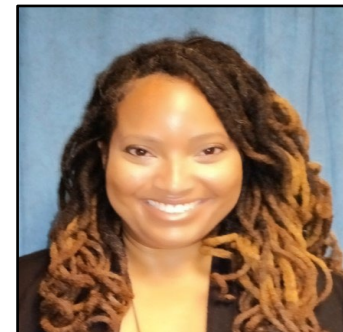
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**GA STRIKE & SUPPORT TEAM**

Join us for the Georgia Department of Public Health Strike (& Support) Team Office Hours. These sessions will consist of a regularly scheduled monthly webinar for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) as well as SNF medical directors. Office hours are your opportunity to come and learn, share, vent and more!

Each month we will have updates on infection prevention, clinical protocols and ideas for new tools and resources. This is your chance to access subject matter experts on infection control and clinical practice in long term care.

Come prepared to pose your questions to subject matter experts and learn from your peers about their best practices and their barriers.

## Strike & Support Team Office Hours



### Office Hours for SNF and MD's:

- [Click here](#) to register – November 18, 2022 at 11 a.m. ET
- [Click here](#) to register – December 16, 2022 at 11 a.m. ET

### Office Hours for Non-SNF:

- [Click here](#) to register – November 18, 2022 at 1 p.m. ET
- [Click here](#) to register – December 16, 2022 at 1 p.m. ET

<https://quality.allianthealth.org/topic/georgia-department-of-public-health/>

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## Infection Control Resources

Sepsis

[HQIC Sepsis Gap Assessment and Action Steps](#)

[HQIC Sepsis: Spot the Signs Magnet](#)

[HQIC Sepsis Provider Engagement](#)

[AQ Sepsis-ZoneTool](#)

[Recognition and Management of Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock](#)

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Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI)

[CAUTI Gap Assessment Tool](#)

[Urinary Catheter Quick Observation Tool](#)

[CDC-HICPAC Guideline for Prevention of CAUTI 2009](#)

[AHRQ Toolkit for Reducing CAUTI in Hospitals](#)

[CDC TAP CAUTI Implementation Guide](#)

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Hand Hygiene

[Handwash the FROG Way – Badges – English](#)

[Handwash the FROG Way – Badges – Spanish](#)

[Handwash the FROG Way – Poster – English](#)

[Handwash the FROG Way – Poster – Spanish](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions – Alcohol Based Hand Rub](#)

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NHSN

[Joining the Alliant Health Solutions NHSN Group](#)

[Instructions for Submitting C. difficile Data into NHSN](#)

[5-Step Enrollment for Long-term Care Facilities](#)

[CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network \(NHSN\)](#)

[NHSN Enrollment/ LAN Event Presentation](#)

Clostridioides Difficile Infection (C. difficile)

[C.difficile Training](#)

[Nursing Home Training Sessions Introduction](#)

[Nursing Home C.difficile Infection](#)

Antibiotic Stewardship

[Antibiotic Stewardship Basics](#)

[A Field Guide to Antibiotic Stewardship in Outpatient Settings](#)

[Physician Commitment Letter](#)

[Be Antibiotics Aware](#)

[Taking Your Antibiotics](#)

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Training

[Options for Infection Control Training in Nursing Homes Flyer](#)

COVID-19

[Invest in Trust \(AHRQ Resource for CNA COVID-19 Vaccines\)](#)

[Nursing Home Staff and Visitor Screening Toolkit – PDF](#)

[Nursing Home Staff and Visitor Screening Toolkit – Excel](#)

<https://quality.allianthealth.org/topic/infection-control/>

# Save the Date

## **SNF and Medical Directors Office Hours**

April 21, 2023 – 11 a.m. ET

## **ALF and PCH**

April 28, 2023 – 11 a.m. ET



# Thanks Again...

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia



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