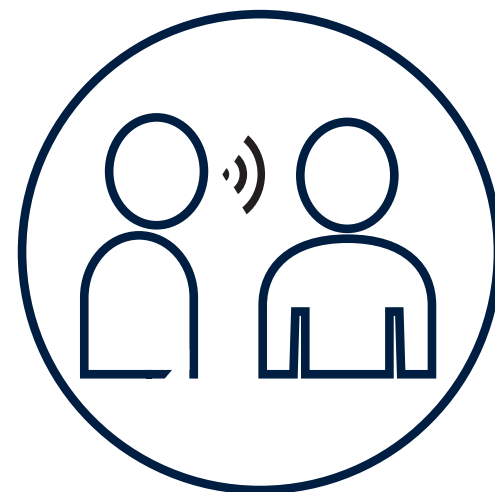


# Speak Up™ To Prevent Infection



## 1. Clean your hands ...

- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Use soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.
- Clean your hands before eating or touching food.



## 2. Remind caregivers to clean their hands ...

- As soon as they enter the room.
- This helps prevent the spread of germs.
- Your caregivers may wear gloves for their own protection.



## 3. Stay away from others when you are sick ...

- If possible, stay home.
- Don't share drinks or eating utensils.
- Don't touch others or shake hands.
- Don't visit newborns.



## 4. If you are coughing or sneezing ...

- Cover your mouth and nose.
- Use a tissue or the crook of your elbow.
- Clean your hands as soon as possible after you cough or sneeze.
- Ask for a mask as soon as you get to the doctor's office or hospital.
- Keep a distance of about 6 feet between you and others.



## 5. If you visit a hospital patient ...

- Clean your hands when entering or exiting the hospital.
- Clean your hands before going in or out of the patient's room.
- Read and follow the directions on signs posted outside the patient's room.
- You may be asked to put on a mask, gloves, a paper gown, and shoe covers.
- If sanitizer wipes are in the room, read the instructions. Some wipes are only for cleaning equipment and surfaces, and are not safe for skin.
- If you are unsure about what to do, ask the nurse.



## 6. Get shots to avoid disease ...

- Make sure your vaccinations are current — even for adults.
- Help prevent diseases like the flu, whooping cough and pneumonia.

**The goal of Speak Up™ is to help patients and their advocates become active in their care.**

Speak Up™ materials are intended for the public and have been put into a simplified (i.e., easy-to-read) format to reach a wider audience. They are not meant to be comprehensive statements of standards interpretation or other accreditation requirements, nor are they intended to represent evidence-based clinical practices or clinical practice guidelines. Thus, care should be exercised in using the content of Speak Up™ materials. Speak Up™ materials are available to all health care organizations; their use does not indicate that an organization is accredited by The Joint Commission.