



ST LUKE'S CARE

— PRIVATE HOSPITAL —

INFECTION PREVENTION

Our staff are committed to upholding a high standard of infection control. We monitor our hospital infection rates and use this information to implement best practices for continuous improvement.

What we do to keep you safe

The team at St Luke's Care follows strict infection control protocols. One of the most effective ways to reduce infections is good hand hygiene. Our staff clean their hands 'at each contact' or, put more simply, before and after touching each patient.


Our staff also wear appropriate protective equipment, including gloves, masks, gowns, shields and goggles.

St Luke's also maintains rigorous processes around cleaning, ensuring compliance with NSW Health standards.


As some germs are resistant to antibiotics and some diseases highly contagious, you may be treated in a particular way if you are suspected of having one of these infections. This may involve being placed in isolation with staff using special protective equipment while caring for you.

What you can do to help us keep you safe

Regularly wash your hands using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitiser when staying in the hospital is one of the most important things you can do. This is best done:


 *When entering and leaving your hospital room*


 *Before and after eating*


 *After using the bathroom, or after sneezing, coughing or blowing your nose.*


It's also important that family and friends visiting you and the staff caring for you wash their hands. You should feel empowered to remind health care workers to wash their hands before providing you care. They will not be offended.


Other considerations


 *Refrain from unnecessarily touching bandages, dressings or drips or other medical equipment and ensure your visitors do the same.*


 *Immediately alert health professionals if there are issues with your intravenous lines (drip), tubes, drains or if your wounds become red, swollen or painful.*


 *Inform your health professional if your wound dressing becomes loose or wet. The skin around your dressing should be clean and dry.*


 *Let your health professional know if you have had a recent infection and are still on antibiotics.*

 *If you are prescribed antibiotics, ensure you complete the course when you return home.*

 *Stop smoking before and after surgery as smoking increases the risk of infection.*

 *If family and friends are unwell, ask them not to visit you.*

 *Ask visitors to sit in bedside chairs, not on your bed.*

 *Feel empowered to tell staff if you have any concerns about the cleanliness of your room, ward or equipment.*