

6 myths about gloves

MYTH #1

Wearing gloves means you don't need to wash your hands



Reality: Gloves are not a substitute for hand hygiene. Hands should be washed or sanitized before putting on gloves and immediately after removing them. Gloves can become contaminated when putting them on and during use, and can transfer pathogens if not removed and disposed of properly.

MYTH #2

Wearing gloves all the time prevents the spread of infections

Reality: While gloves can provide a barrier against direct contact with bodily fluids and contaminated surfaces, wearing them continuously can lead to a false sense of security. Changing gloves between different residents or procedures and performing proper hand hygiene are crucial steps in preventing infection transmission.



MYTH #3

Double gloving offers better protection against infections



Reality: Double gloving is unnecessary and can even increase the risk of contamination during glove removal. Single gloves, when used correctly, provide adequate protection if changed appropriately based on the task being performed.

MYTH #4

Gloves are completely impermeable to viruses and bacteria

Reality: While gloves create a physical barrier, they are not completely impermeable. Also, small holes can occur during use.



MYTH #5

Reusing gloves after washing or sanitizing them is safe



Reality: Single-use gloves are designed for one-time use only. Reusing gloves can lead to cross-contamination and does not provide adequate protection against infections. Always discard gloves after each use and perform hand hygiene.

MYTH #6

Wearing gloves prevents the need for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces

Reality: Gloves should not be considered a substitute for routine cleaning and disinfection of surfaces. Contaminated gloves can transfer pathogens to surfaces and equipment.

