

Leamington Mennonite Home
Long Term Care

**INFECTION CONTROL
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

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| CATEGORY: Housekeeping/Laundry Department | SUBJECT: Safe Handling of Soiled Linen | SECTION: J POLICY: 14 |
| DATE: July 12, 2022 | Administrator's Signature: _____ <i>J. M.</i> | |
| REVISION DATES: January 2024 | IPAC Lead's Signature: _____ <i>L. Coppola, R.N.</i> | |

SAFE HANDLING OF SOILED LINEN

POLICY:

Soiled linen shall be handled and transported in a way contaminants are contained and confined.

All laundry should be treated as potentially infectious, therefore special linen handling for residents on Additional or Routine Precautions is not required.

PROCEDURE:

Staff working in resident areas will:

- 1) Ensure appropriate PPE is worn when handling all soiled linens.
- 2) Ensure isolated laundry is placed in isolation bag with red stripe and carried down to laundry room, not put down the chute.
- 3) Place soiled laundry bags down the chute, except those with emesis will be walked down and laundry staff to be notified.
- 4) Roll or fold linen to contain the heaviest soil in the center of the bundle.
- 5) Remove large amounts of solid soil such as feces from linen/clothing with a gloved hand and with toilet paper; contain the feces in the continence product to dispose of feces in the toilet. Product can then be placed in garbage bag on the Laundry/Garbage cart. Feces that are not solid can be cleaned up with moistened dry wipes and disposed of with the disposable continence product into the garbage bag on the Laundry/Garbage cart.

Staff working in the laundry area will:

- 1) Perform hand hygiene using soap and water or ABHR when entering and leaving the laundry area and when moving from soiled laundry to clean laundry area.
- 2) Maintain a distinct area for clean and soiled linens as follows:

- Wear protective impermeable bib aprons, face protection, and rubber gloves always when working with soiled linen.
 - Keep soiled laundry in the soiled area and clean linen in the clean area.
 - Wash clean linen again if it passes into the soiled linen area. If clean linens or clothing fall to the floor, they must be washed again.
 - Transport clean laundry from washing machines to dryers in clean linen carts
 - Clean and inspect both laundry areas, including washing machines and dryers daily.
- 3) Wash reusable gloves after use, allow hanging to dry, and discard if punctured or torn.
 - 4) Perform hand hygiene whenever gloves are changed or removed.
 - 5) Ensure when handling soiled linen that it is free of biomedical waste (i.e., dressings, wound supplies, etc.), sharps, instruments, and resident's personal belongings.
 - 6) Wash soiled and isolated linens together on "Soil/Isolation" wash cycle that uses appropriate water temperature and cleaning solutions. The laundry will then be separated into personal laundry and home linens and washed again on the appropriate wash cycles. See *Housekeeping/Laundry Policy and Procedure Manual* for wash cycle instructions.
 - 7) See Safe Handling of Linens Guidelines for

Note: It is strongly recommended that staff working in the laundry area receive immunization against Hepatitis B.