



Position statement: Hand hygiene

1. Context

The Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care (ACSQHC) identifies improved hand hygiene as an effective intervention in reducing the risk of general hospital-acquired infections in all health care settings.

2. Purpose

This position statement details the ANMF (Vic Branch) support for the [National Hand Hygiene Initiative](#) and the [revised hand hygiene recommendations](#) in the [2019 Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare](#).

3. Key definitions

Hand hygiene: refers to any action of hand cleansing, which includes:

- applying an alcohol-based hand rub for all clinical situations, where hands are visibly clean, or
- washing hands with water and antimicrobial or non-antimicrobial soap or soap solution

4. Branch position

It is the position of the ANMF (Vic Branch) that:

- 4.1 Effective infection control and prevention is integral to providing best practice health care and maintaining safe working environments for health care staff.
- 4.2 We support all efforts to increase hand hygiene compliance among staff and patients, including the [National Hand Hygiene Initiative](#).
- 4.3 We encourage all members to practice hand hygiene in the following [5-moments of hand hygiene](#) to foster safer outcomes for patients and staff: