



CHATS

Community & Home
Assistance to Seniors

Infection Control Guidelines for Clients

Over the past ten years, the health care delivery system has undergone enormous change and we are experiencing infections in the community we did not see before.

Community care organizations like CHATS have a dual responsibility:

1. We must work to prevent the transmission of infections from our clients to our workers.
2. We must work to limit the introduction of infections from our workers to our clients.

CHATS takes this responsibility to protect our clients very seriously. We have developed the following procedures to control and manage the spread of infection in the community:

- All CHATS workers are required to screen clients, or any other persons with whom you live, by asking a few questions before each visit and before starting any care. This may be done with a phone call the night before or when the worker arrives at your home.
- We are screening for any changes in health status such as new unexplained cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or fever.
- If you display any of these symptoms, the worker may ask if you have seen a doctor. If you have not seen a doctor, the worker will put on additional protective equipment, which may include a mask, goggles and gown in addition to gloves, which is our normal practice.
- This precaution is to protect the worker and other clients she/he has to care for that day, in case you are coming down with an infectious illness that can be spread to others.
- We also emphasize the need for our workers to wash their hands thoroughly and properly at various times while providing care as **hand washing is the best defense against the spread of infection**. Staff would use waterless hand antiseptic cleanser or soap & water –we ask that clients have liquid hand soap and paper towels available for staff to use. If any CHATS worker is not washing their hands, we want to hear from you! We encourage you to prevent the spread of infection by also practicing good hand washing.

If you have any questions about our infection management procedures, please do not hesitate to call your CHATS Infection Control Nurse Specialist at 905-713-3373 ext. 7018.