

Communicable Disease

As we learned during Toronto's Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) crisis, hand washing is one of the best ways to help control the spread of infectious diseases such as influenza, diarrhea and the common cold. Unfortunately, roughly one-third of North Americans don't wash their hands after using a public restroom (25% of women and 42% of men). The best way to wash is to use soap and warm water and rub your hands together vigorously, front, back, between all fingers and around the wrists. For additional information about effective hand washing, please see the following attachments.

In workplaces such as Brock, there is little to no danger of blood borne disease transmission such as HIV, Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C. However, for those whose work brings them into contact with body fluids or sharps (objects that can break, cut or puncture the skin), Universal Precautions should be taken. These precautions are intended to prevent skin, mucous membrane or percutaneous (through the skin) exposure to blood borne pathogens. Cleaners, plumbers, and emergency response staff who have been identified to be most at risk at the University have received training in universal precautions.

Please report any potentially infectious situation or inappropriately disposed sharps immediately to the Facilities Management Customer Service desk at extension 3717. Sharps containers have been installed in some washrooms on campus.