

Hand Hygiene Program

FAQ

UCLA Health

General

Why is Hand Hygiene important?

The CDC and WHO state that hand hygiene is the simplest and most effective practice in preventing the spread of infection. UCLA Health is committed to taking care of the communities we serve. This is why we have partnered with Ecolab to implement a hand hygiene program that helps provide reminders on when to wash or sanitize to optimize patient and staff safety.

What areas will this apply to?

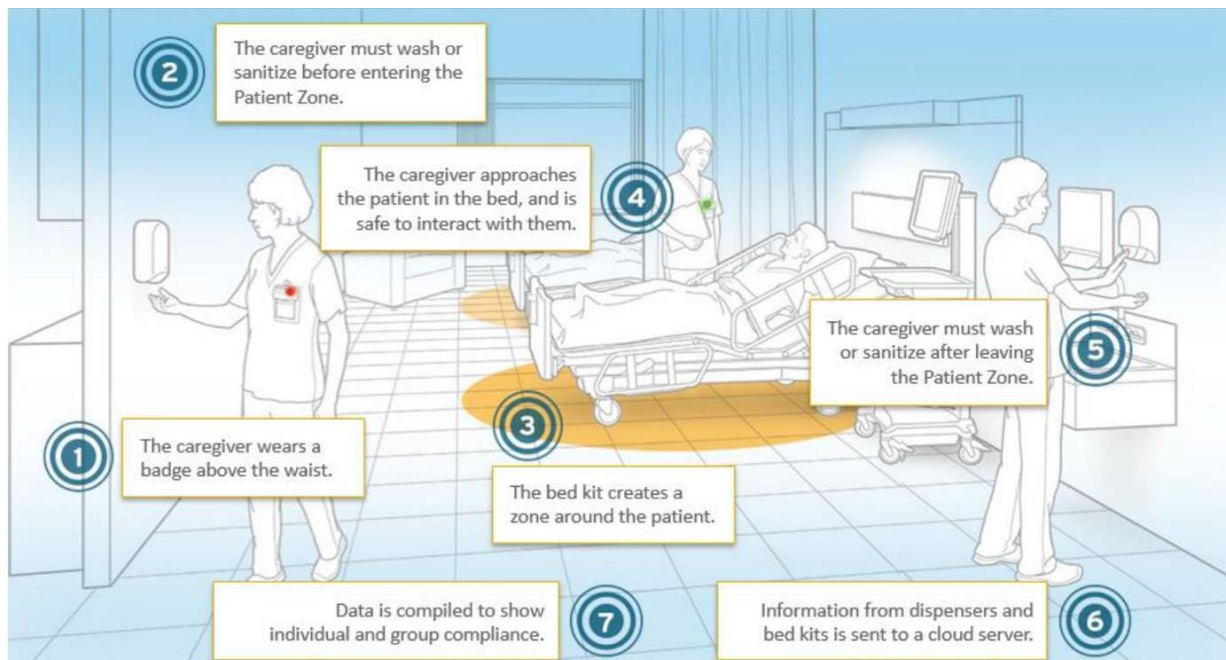
During the initial phase, the program will cover all inpatient rooms throughout UCLA Health system-wide (RRMC and SMH).

How do we identify which pieces of equipment are within the Ecolab network?

Monitored dispensers are identifiable by the Wi-Fi symbol on the cover of the unit.

Is this program monitoring all movements, or only handwashing?

The badge does not track your location, movement, or activity throughout the facility. It only collects data related to dispenser use and bed zone entries in monitored patient care areas.



Why do we need this program since we already wash our hands?

With this system, and the insight to data it provides, we can now recognize the great work you are doing in keeping our patients and each other safe. This data is also valuable in reporting and achieving higher safety grades.

Will this be disruptive to our work?

This program fits into our normal workflows and hospital policies of hand hygiene during patient interactions. Employees will wear a badge above the waist that monitors their hand hygiene behaviors throughout monitored Patient Zones.

Is there training available?

A web-based training is available on Cornerstone, which can be accessed directly via [this link](#) or by searching for “Ecolab Hand Hygiene Badge Training.” Additional onsite education and information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Onsite Installation

How long will onsite installation take?

Ecolab technicians and contractors will be on site at each entity for approximately 2-3 weeks, including Saturdays, to install beacons within soap and sanitizer dispenser units, as well as patient beds, in common areas and patients’ rooms. The in-patient room installation should take approximately 20 minutes. Patients do not need to leave their bed or room during the installation process.

How do we identify Ecolab team members and where will they have access to enter?

Ecolab team members will check in with security and wear contractor/vendor badges. These individuals are screened and cleared to enter patient rooms and will introduce themselves to department management before entering patient areas. They may also enter isolation rooms provided they wear the appropriate PPE but they have been instructed not to enter airborne isolation rooms where an N95 mask is required. Installation work will shift as needed for any rooms that are not accessible.

Badges

Which team members will need to wear an Ecolab badge?

All employees, including physicians, nurses, sitters, EVS staff, transportation and others who interact with patients in monitored patient areas.

What do I need to do to obtain my badge?

Your leader will provide badge distribution dates and times. It is important that you continue with your normal workflow once you have received your badge. This will help the implementation team collect the data necessary to optimize the system, locations, and timing overall.

What do I need to do to maintain the badge?

Badges are personal pieces of equipment and should be worn above the waist throughout patient care areas, not including public areas like the cafeteria or outside patient rooms. All badges are battery powered, and the battery lasts for approximately one year.

What do the different lights/sounds mean?

Green: After using a monitored Ecolab dispenser and after coming into the patient zone if it is within the time allowed after dispensing. The time allowed to enter a patient zone after dispensing is 10 minutes. Additionally, a wash out from one patient zone will count as a wash in to the next patient zone in this 10-minute period.

Green/Yellow: After leaving the patient zone or your badge loses connection with the patient zone. These lights are a reminder that you either need to reconnect to the patient zone or use a monitored dispenser to “clean” your badge. This allows you to leave a patient zone and come

back to that patient within a certain amount of time and the system does not require you to re-wash or re-sanitize your hands. The time allotted to re-enter a patient zone before the badge light turns red is dependent on your department/position workflow and will vary across the workforce.

Yellow (after PT contact): You have disconnected from the patient zone for more than the time allotted. You will have one additional minute to wash-out from the previous patient interaction before the badge turns red.

Yellow (after dispensing): Your badge has gone to sleep and will need to be woken up by a dispenser before contacting a patient zone. You will have 10 minutes to enter a patient zone. After 10 minutes, the badge will turn yellow to remind you that you should dispense before entering a patient zone.

Red: Your badge is in a non-compliant state either from missing a wash-in or out. The first action of your shift should be to use a monitored dispenser to wake/up and “clean” your badge. Otherwise, it will be in a non-active state and contact within a patient zone may result in a non-compliant event.

Using Dispensers

How do I ensure I get credit for dispenses?

Ensure that your badge is worn above the waist and that you are within 36” of the dispenser. For manual dispensers, depress at least 70% of the lever. You will either see a reddish-gold or blue light (Phase II) on the front of the dispenser when it communicates with a badge. Dispensers will only credit one badge at a time, usually the closest person to the dispenser.

Patient Zones

How do I ensure I am connecting to the patient zone?

The patient zone extends 18” off both sides of the bed. Typically, the signal is stronger near the middle of the bed rather than at the head or foot. After using a dispenser, your badge will not recognize a bed for 15 seconds. The bed beacon looks for a badge every 3 seconds. It is possible you’ll need to be in the bed zone for 18 seconds before connecting. Unlike the dispensers, a bed beacon will communicate with multiple badges at one time. By following your normal workflow of washing in and out of all patient interactions, the system captures your connections.

Is the Patient Zone always active?

Bed patient zones are only active if the bed is plugged into a power source. Stretcher patient zones are always active. Stretchers stored in hallways or beds left plugged in while stored in hallways are active.

If you have additional questions that were not addressed in this document, please reach out to your department leader.

