Handwashing Technique

Preparation



 Remove hand and wrist jewellery (wedding band allowed) N.B. Keep nails short



2. Wet hands thoroughly under warm running water



3. Apply 5mls of soap/antiseptic soap to cupped hand by pressing dispenser with heel of hand (do not use finger tips on the dispenser)

Handwashing – (process takes at least 15 seconds)



A. Rub palm to palm 5 times



B. Rub right palm over the back of left hand up to wrist level 5 times. Do the same with the other hand



C. With right hand over back of left hand rub fingers 5 times. Do same with the other hand



D. Rub palm to palm with the fingers interlaced



E. Wash thumbs of each hand separately using a rotating movement



F. Rub the tips of the fingers against the opposite palm using a circular motion. Also ensure nail beds are washed



 G. Rinse hands thoroughly under running water to remove all traces of soap



H. Turn off taps using elbows



I. Dry hands completely using a disposable paper towel



Discard paper towel in waste bin.
Open bin using foot pedal only to avoid contaminating clean hands

Supported by PEI Developed by Infection Control Team St. James's Hospital





A Strategy for the Control of Antimicrobial Resistance in Ireland

