

May 5, 2014

## RVH publicly posts hand hygiene rates

To mark national Stop! Clean Your Hands Day today, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) is now posting its hand hygiene compliance rates in public areas throughout the health centre. The signage reinforces the health centre's commitment to delivering safe, high-quality care while celebrating its high rates, which are above the provincial average.

"At RVH, safety is our top priority. By posting our quarterly results we are able to celebrate our high hand hygiene compliance rates and recognize clinical areas that demonstrate outstanding commitment to patient safety through hand hygiene," says Janice Skot, president and CEO, RVH. "The public expects 100 per cent hand hygiene compliance and so do we. We are already measuring compliance on a monthly basis and posting our corporate rates on our website, so now we've taken it one step further to let you know how specific departments are doing."

Hand hygiene compliance is measured each month in most inpatient and outpatient clinical areas through visual hand hygiene audits conducted by RVH's Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) department. In 2013-2014, IPAC conducted more than 12,000 hand hygiene audits.

The signage is posted at main entrances and in the RVH Food Court and displays data for most inpatient and outpatient clinical areas. It will be updated quarterly, with results shown in descending order from highest rates to lowest.

"At RVH we base every action on our unwavering commitment to safety and quality," says Dr. Jim Shaver, chief of staff, RVH. "We are accountable to our patients, visitors, fellow staff, physicians and volunteers to all practice hand hygiene. It is our obligation to do all we can to ensure the health of our patients which includes cleaning our hands – when we enter and exit the building, as well as before and after patient contact. This new signage helps remind everyone about the importance of hand hygiene."

Studies show that up to 80 per cent of all infections are spread through the hands. Stopping to clean your hands for approximately 15 seconds can reduce, if not eliminate, this risk. RVH dedicates significant effort to education and reinforcing proper hand hygiene practices because it is one of the most effective and simplest ways to keep patients, visitors, staff, physicians and volunteers safe.

The health centre posts its annual corporate rate on its website – [www.rvh.on.ca](http://www.rvh.on.ca) – as required by the provincial government.

-30-

### For more information:

**Suzanne Legue**  
Chief Communications Officer  
705-728-9090 ext. 41600

**Jennifer Moore**  
Corporate Communications  
705-728-9090 ext. 41618