

- **Group A strep (GAS) bacteria** cause different forms of illnesses including strep throat and cellulitis (skin infection), as well as more severe invasive illnesses. Severe infections are life-threatening and need immediate treatment.
- **LTC residents are particularly vulnerable to** invasive GAS due to advanced age and other risk factors such as wounds and immunocompromised status.
- GAS spreads easily in long-term care facilities and can be **transmitted from person to person via respiratory droplets, contaminated hands, and improper wound care practices.**

Follow these steps to keep yourself and your residents safe:



Perform hand hygiene often. Be sure to include thumbs, fingertips and between fingers.



Follow facility protocols while performing wound care.



Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces frequently, making sure to leave the disinfectant wet for the entire contact time.



Stay home when you are sick.

Hand hygiene reminders

- Wear gloves any time you may be exposed to blood or body fluids, including when bathing or showering residents.
- Always perform hand hygiene (use alcohol-based hand rub or wash hands) before putting on gloves and after removing gloves
- Always change gloves between residents and if gloves are soiled.
- Always perform hand hygiene before and after contact with a resident or their environment if gloves are not needed.
- Alcohol-based hand rub is usually the preferred method of hand hygiene.
- Wash hands with soap and water if visibly soiled and after eating/drinking or using the restroom.