



Henry The Hand Foundation

Thank you for consenting to participate in the first health care facility coordinated respiratory infection prevention effort to improve the health status of staff members, patient safety and infection prevention at the "teaching moment" of flu vaccine administration. This represents a strategy using Positive Deviance (acting your way into a new way of thinking instead of thinking your way into a new way of acting), that I predict will catalyze patient safety as it will make staff more aware of where their hands are and what their hands are doing at all times.

Facial mucus membranes (eyes, nose and mouth) are the elephant in the room for perpetuating respiratory and gastro-intestinal infections, as they are the only portals of entry into the human body. These mucus membranes also are the repositories for colonization for many HAIs.

It has been recently demonstrated that vaccination does not prevent colonization of the facial mucus membranes therefore, a vaccinated staff member can still be inadvertently spreading flu virus around the facility. You have heard about the CREW strategy of "stop the line", this T Zone education moment could be looked at as a "stop the spread" strategy as our hands and nose can be fomites when we may not be aware of it.

At first some will balk at the seemingly "adolescent" approach, but it is necessary to disrupt their comfortable "bad habit" that is a link in a chain reaction of HAIs.

Thank you for your participation. And willingness to "spread the word not the germs"!

Sincerely,
Will Sawyer, MD
President
Henry the Hand Foundation
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4 Principles of Hand Awareness:

1. WASH your hands when they are dirty and BEFORE eating.
2. DO NOT cough into your hands.
3. DO NOT sneeze into your hands.
4. Above all, DO NOT put your fingers into your eyes, nose, or mouth.

The 4 Principles of Hand Awareness have been endorsed by the AMA and the AAFP.