

**Southeast Missouri State University
Center for Speech and Hearing
General Infection Control Guidelines**

The following apply to all clinical situations in the speech-language pathology and audiology clinic. Additional infection control procedures may be indicated for certain procedures (e.g., laryngeal stroboscopy, otoscopic examination, etc.). If you are using any instruments that involve insertion in the mouth, nose, or ear; or, if you are using face masks or skin surface electrodes, you should check with the supervisor about proper infection control procedures.

Always wash hands before and after every session. This protects you and the client. You may also use hand sanitizer within your sessions as needed.

Review your client's medical history carefully. You should make special notice of a history or presence of infectious diseases (e.g., HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, and CMV). Take any precautions as needed.

Wear gloves whenever there is a possibility of contacting fresh or dried bodily fluids and wash hands after removing gloves. Situations may include scabs, dried mucous, runny noses, cold sores, fever blisters, drooling, etc.

Clean table surfaces and toys frequently to reduce possible transmission of airborne disease. A container is provided in the clinic area for placement of toys/materials that require disinfecting.

Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes and mouth, during clinical sessions until you have washed your hands. This protects you from contacting viruses.

Unless contraindicated for medical reasons, an annual flu shot is recommended for practicing speech-language pathologists. This not only protects you from the flu virus, but may reduce the severity of any viruses you might happen to contract.