**Hand Hygiene**

**Checklist**

- Make it easy for people to do the “right” thing
- A sink with running water and soap dispenser is optimal
- Place multiple alcohol based hand sanitizers in larger barns, for easy access throughout the facility
- Always handle the healthy horse(s) before the sick one(s)
- Sanitize your hands before and after each interaction with an “isolated” horse or any of their equipment, food, medicine and other items (isolated = sick, new or travelling)
- Sanitize your hands when working with foals, before and after
- Other activities that require hand hygiene procedure before and after are; administration of medication, dewormers and feeding of grain and hay

**Soap and Water Wash - Application time 40 – 60 seconds**

- Use liquid soap (best option)
- Wet hands with water and apply enough product to cover all areas (Sing Happy Birthday Twice!)
- Rinse hands with water and dry thoroughly with a single-use towel (best option – prevents re-contamination)
- If bar soap is used, use small bars of soap in racks that allow the bars to dry in between use

**Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizer (min. 61% alcohol) - Application time: 20 – 30 seconds**

- First remove organic material – use a towel or hand wipe
- Apply a quarter sized amount of alcohol-based hand-rub into your palm, dip your finger tips in the sanitizer and then rub the sanitizer over all surfaces of your hands
- Let dry, avoid open sparks while alcohol gel is drying

Equine Guelph would like to extend thanks to Dr. Josie Traub-Dargatz and Dr. Alanna Kirby, Colorado State University for input and content review of this infosheet.

To learn more about equine biosecurity, register for Equine Guelph’s [online course](http://www.equineguelph.ca) and visit the biosecurity risk calculator [online tool](http://www.equineguelph.ca).