



5 Best Practices For a More Sanitary Reception Area

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:
[4 Access Control Strategies That Minimize Risk at Long-Term Care Facilities](#)

Long-term care facilities have special needs when it comes to sanitation.

Anytime so many people are living so close together in the same space, infection is more likely to spread. Residents of long-term care facilities also often have compromised immune systems that make them even more susceptible to germs carried in by visitors.

Visitors are at elevated risk of infection, too, since residents of rehab centers and long-term care facilities are often dealing with medical complications like wounds, catheters, and incontinence.

Educate Visitors About Sanitation. Use signs to educate visitors about the importance of washing hands before and after each visit, and let them know which handwashing methods are the most effective (check out [these instructions from the U.S. Center for Disease Control](#)).

Provide Hand Sanitizer. Encourage visitors to use hand sanitizer. You can place some at the front desk and at various points throughout the lobby. Hand washing stations are also a great option, if possible.

Provide Infection Prevention Supplies. Consider providing surgical masks for visitors who are planning to visit a resident with an infection that can be spread through the air, such as the flu. In the case of more serious infections, a gown and gloves might be necessary.

Invest in Automatic Lobby Doors. When doors open automatically, you don't have to worry that everyone coming in and out has to touch the handle. Similarly, you can consider investing in foot pedal doors for the bathrooms or other areas to prevent the spread of infection.

Remove (or Regularly Disinfect) Shared Lobby Items. Forget the shared reading material and the communal candy bowl. It's more important for your residents and visitors to avoid germs. Don't forget to disinfect the visitor sign-in log. If you're still using a pen, your front desk staff can wipe it clean after each visit. If you are using a tablet, make sure visitors use hand sanitizer after they log in.