# Disinfection of Thermometers

## Purpose
The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidelines for safe disinfection of thermometers.

## Preparation

1. Assemble the equipment and supplies as needed.

## Equipment and Supplies
The following equipment and supplies will be necessary when performing this procedure.

1. Thermometer and appropriate container;
2. 70% isopropyl alcohol wipe;
3. Soap and cold water;
4. 70% isopropyl alcohol; and
5. Personal protective equipment (e.g., gowns, gloves, mask, etc., as needed).

## Steps in the Procedure

### To disinfect glass thermometers:

1. Arrange the supplies so they can be easily reached.
2. Wash and dry your hands thoroughly.
3. Wipe the thermometer from the stem toward the bulb with a 70% isopropyl alcohol wipe.
4. Place in container to return to utility room.
5. Wash thermometers with soap and cold water.
6. Rinse.
7. Soak in proper container with 70% isopropyl alcohol for ten (10) minutes.
8. Rinse.
9. Place in designated container to air dry.
10. Close container when thermometers are dry.
11. Wash and dry your hands thoroughly.

### If tympanic thermometer/temporal unit is used:

1. Discard covers after each use.
2. Wipe outside of unit with a 70% isopropyl alcohol wipe:
   a. When visibly soiled with body fluids; and
   b. When temperature check is completed.

## References

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