Appropriate use of Staff Shower amenities

Purpose and intent

The purpose of this document is to outline the appropriate use of the two sets of Staff Shower amenities at Caboolture Hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While showering before or after a shift is not an infection control requirement, these showers are available for staff to use at their discretion.

The two shower facilities referred to are:

**Existing Staff Showers**
Location: Amenities in the Services Block (adjacent to Food Services)
For use by: All staff

**Temporary Showers**
Location: Portable showers (shipping containers) between the Mental Health Short Stay Unit (behind Education Centre) and the Executive Buildings
For priority use by: staff working in areas caring for COVID-19 suspect and positive patients (hot zones), or high-risk areas (Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, Ward 3B).

Scope and target audience

This procedure applies to:

- all Caboolture Hospital clinical and non-clinical staff (permanent, temporary and casual) and all organisations and individuals acting as its agents (including Visiting Medical Officers and other partners, contractors, consultants and volunteers)

Procedure / process

Details about the two staff shower facilities and guidelines for using them are provided on the following pages.
Existing Staff Showers

Location: Amenities in the Services Block (adjacent to Food Services)

For use by: All staff.

These facilities have separate shower and change areas identified for male and female staff. Staff are supported to use the amenities that are consistent with their gender identity.

Hours: These facilities are available for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Access: Swipe access only

Usage protocol:

Staff are required to abide by the Code of Conduct when using these amenities including:

- 1. Integrity and impartiality-
  - 1.5 Demonstrate a high standard of workplace behaviour and personal conduct
    - Staff have a responsibility to always conduct and present themselves in a professional manner, and demonstrate respect for all persons, whether fellow employees, clients or members of the public.
    - treat co-workers, clients and members of the public with courtesy and respect, be appropriate in our relationships with them, and recognise that others have the right to hold views which may differ from our own
    - ensure our conduct reflects our commitment to a workplace that is inclusive and free from harassment
    - ensure our fitness for duty, and the safety, health and welfare of ourselves and others in the workplace, whether co-workers or clients
    - ensure our private conduct maintains the integrity of the public service and our ability to perform our duties
    - comply with legislative and/or policy obligations to report employee criminal charges and convictions

Shower amenities should be used efficiently and only for the purpose that they are intended.

The shower amenities should not:

- be a place of gathering - social distancing applies and maximum numbers will be displayed on the doors.
- be left in an unsafe state e.g. water on floor, discarded towels in cubicles
- be used for washing uniforms, cleaning shoes etc.

N.B. At times these amenities may be prioritised to staff impacted by clinical incidents or scenarios such as:

- Clinical waste exposure e.g. body fluid, emesis
- As determined by the Caboolture Hospital Executive
Temporary Showers

Location: Portable showers (shipping containers) between the Mental Health Short Stay Unit (behind Education Centre) and the Executive Building

The amenities are two separate rows of lockable cubicles divided centrally by a small kitchenette.

For priority use by: staff working in areas caring for COVID-19 suspect and positive patients (Hot Zones), or high-risk areas (eg. Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit, Ward 3B).

Each corridor has separate shower and change areas identified for male and female staff. Staff are supported to use the amenities that are consistent with their gender identity.

Hours: These facilities are available for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Access: Swipe access only.

Usage protocol:

Staff are required to abide by the Code of Conduct when using these amenities including:

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Additional considerations for use

Staff that are entering or exiting clinical Hot Zones or high-risk areas should consider the following steps to minimise cross contamination of shower amenities and personal belongings.

**Entering the facility prior to shift in a Hot Zone:**

Staff wishing to change and/or shower prior to their clinical shift should follow these principles:

- **Enter amenities:**
  - Wash hands
  - Shower and/or change into uniform - uniform should be freshly laundered, and shoes should be clean and free of debris
  - If hospital towel used, placed in linen receptacle, if using towel from home, this should be sealed in a separate bag
  - Wash hands
  - Store clothing in a closed (preferably airtight) bag
  - Wash hands

- **On entering the clinical area:**
  - Wash hands
  - Store bags in lockers provided
  - Use an antibacterial wipe to wipe over personal equipment such as pen, personal stethoscope, scissors, forceps. It is not recommended to carry any other equipment on your person e.g. micropore. N.B. If you are carrying your personal mobile phone during your clinical shift it is advised to keep it sealed in a clip lock bag for duration of shift
  - Wash hands
  - Safely fit the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as per instructional material (videos or posters)

**Exiting the facility post working a shift in the Hot Zones:**

Staff wishing to change and/or shower after their clinical shift should follow these principles:

- **On exiting the clinical area:**
  - Safely remove any PPE as per instructional material (videos or posters)
  - Wash hands,
  - Use an antibacterial wipe to wipe over personal equipment such as pen, personal stethoscope, scissors etc seal in clean bag for transport home
  - Wash hands
  - If carrying personal mobile phone, remove from sealed in a clip lock bag, wipe down phone with antibacterial wipe ready for transport home.
  - Wash hands
  - Leave clinical area- avoid touching face or clothing and maintain social distancing practices.

- **Enter Temporary Showers:**
  - Adhere to social distancing principles e.g. if multiple staff are using the Temporary Showers consider queuing outside until safe to enter
- On entry, wash hands/ use hand sanitiser
- Utilise the appropriate shower cubicle and change area, ensuring the lock is engaged on your cubicle
- Once showered and dressed in clean clothes, place uniform, towel (if brought from home) and shoes in a sealed bag for transport home and immediate laundering.
- Wash hands
- If using hospital supplied towels, ensure these are fully placed in the linen receptacle provided. Please do not overfill linen receptacle and notify operations supervisor if a replacement is required.
- Wash hands
- On return to your residence:
  - Wash hands
  - Launder uniform and other clothing items in a separate hot machine wash, including shoes if suitable
  - Maintain personal work equipment in sealed bag and store safely away from family, do not open
  - Wash hands

**Shower amenities cleaning schedule**

It is the responsibility of staff to maintain the shower cubicle and dressing areas in a clean and tidy manner. Formal cleaning of the areas will occur as per a dedicated cleaning schedule.

The shower amenities will undergo 3 hourly checks for usage and minimum of twice a day formal cleaning in the morning and afternoon.

**Security measures**

The health and safety of staff is a priority for Caboolture Hospital.

The temporary shower amenities have staff swipe access to enter and additional security surveillance cameras focused on the corridors within the structure.

**Partnering with consumers**

This protocol is to protect both consumers, staff and their families by reducing the likelihood of transmission of COVID-19.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander considerations (optional)**

It is acknowledged that Staff of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage may not feel comfortable utilising facilities that are not physically separated into gender specific areas. This may also be of concern for staff from multi-cultural backgrounds.

These sensitivities will be taken into consideration as much as possible and alternative processes or reduce utilisation will be enacted to ensure the accessibility of the amenities by all staff.
Legislation and other authority

Public Health Act 2005
Queensland Statewide Infection Clinical Network

References

Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (2019)
Infection Control: Preventing and Controlling Healthcare- Associated Infection
Infection Control: Standard Precautions
Code of Conduct for the Queensland public service
Managing the work environment and facilities. Code of Practice 2011

Related documents

MN COVID-19 Response Plan
National Guidelines: Caring for people with COVID-19- national COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce

Appendix 1- Definition of terms (if required)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Existing amenities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary amenities</td>
<td>Shower amenities located between the Mental Health Short Stay Unit and Executive Building, prioritised for staff working in high risk areas such as Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit and Ward 3B</td>
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Appendix 2 – Roles and responsibilities (if required)

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<th>Role</th>
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Appendix 3 – (if required)