

## HAND HYGIENE COMPLIANCE

**2010-2011 Reported Annually**

### **What is Hand Hygiene Compliance?**

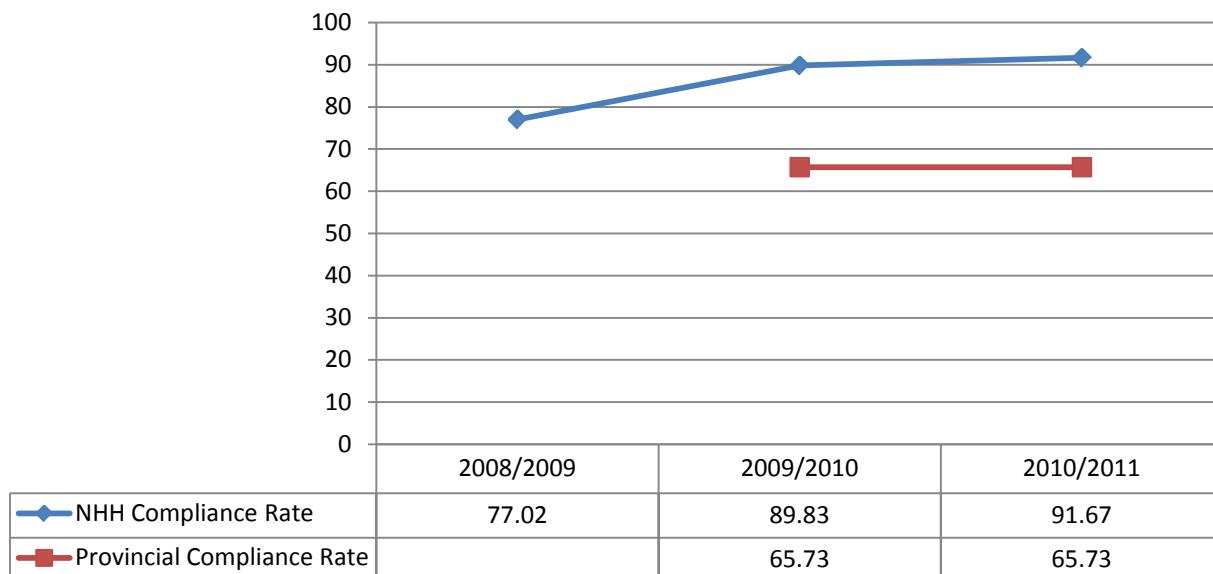
Research shows that hand hygiene is the single most effective way to reduce the risk of health care-associated infections. NHH has a strong commitment to ensuring the overall safety and well being of patients and staff. This commitment is evidenced through NHH's ongoing participation in the Ontario Hospital Association's patient-focused *Clean Hands Protect Lives* program and a complementary program, *Just Clean Your Hands*, directed at health-care providers.

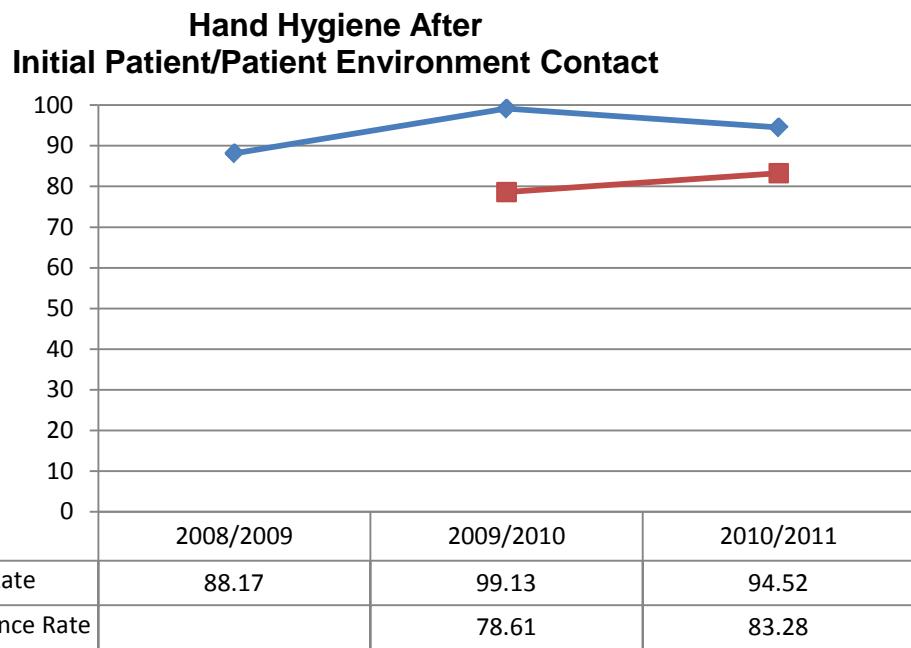
Hand hygiene relates to the removal of visible soil and the removal or killing of microorganisms from the hands and may be accomplished using soap and running water or an alcohol-based hand rub. The single most common way of transferring health care-associated infections (HAI) is by the hands of health care workers. Health care worker's hands may acquire infection-causing organisms from contact with patients, or after handling contaminated material or equipment. Monitoring hand hygiene practices is vital to improving infection rates and reducing HAI.

Trained observers now conduct hand hygiene audits in hospitals using a provincial audit tool. Proper hand hygiene compliance by your health care team is measured at four important moments: before initial patient/patient environment contact; before aseptic (sterile) procedures, such as cleaning a wound or giving a needle; after body fluid exposure risk and after patient/patient environment contact.

**For more information on Hand Hygiene, click [here](#).**

**Hand Hygiene Before  
Initial Patient/Patient Environment Contact**





**Compliance before patient contact (%):** The number of times that hand hygiene was performed before initial patient/patient environment contact divided by the number of observed hand hygiene indications for before initial patient/patient environment contact multiplied by 100.

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