

# **Infection Control**

**Infection Control** - Healthcare providers should follow Standard Precautions to minimize the risks of spreading disease during vaccine administration.

- **Handwashing** - The single, most effective disease prevention activity is good handwashing. Hands should be washed thoroughly with soap and water or cleansed with an alcohol-based waterless antiseptic between patients, before vaccine preparation or any time hands become soiled, e.g. diapering, cleaning excreta.
- **Gloving** - Gloves are not required to be worn when administering vaccines unless the person administering the vaccine is likely to come into contact with potentially infectious body fluids or has open lesions on the hands. It is important to remember that gloves cannot prevent needlestick injuries.
- **Needlestick Injuries** should be reported immediately to the site supervisor, with appropriate care and follow-up given as directed by state/local guidelines. Safety needles or needle-free injection devices should be used if available to reduce the risk of injury.
- **Equipment Disposal** - Used needles should not be detached from syringes, recapped or cut before disposal. All used syringe/needle devices should be placed in puncture proof containers to prevent accidental needlesticks and reuse. Empty or expired vaccine vials are considered medical waste and should be disposed of according to state regulations.