

Your Space, Your Safety: Keeping Your Room Clutter-Free

Information Sheet for Patients and Visitors

Your stay at LHSC is important to us. Hospitals have germs that may lead to infection. A cluttered patient room is hard to clean and can increase the risk of injury to you, your visitors, and staff. We all have a role to play in keeping your room clean and clutter free.

Bring Only What is Necessary

While we want you to be comfortable, many personal items can make it difficult to clean your room and can be a hazard to others. Remember, hospital germs may also get on your personal things, so keep only what you need at the hospital. If you have items that you no longer need, ask someone to take them home for you. If your unit has designated *Patient Zones* and *Clinical Zones*, please do your best to keep your personal items in the designated *Patient Zone* and remind your visitors to do the same.

Get Well Soon

Friends and family often show they care with flowers, gifts, and cards. Please put these items in a place that does not interfere with your care such as a designated shelf, your bedside table, or over-bed table. Consider sending things you no longer need home with a visitor. Asking visitors for best wishes only or delaying gifts to be enjoyed after you have returned home, can also help to control room clutter.

Clean Your Hands

While we do our best to keep your room clean, we know that germs are everywhere, including door knobs, bed rails, table tops, and other surfaces. It is important to clean your hands often and to keep your hands away from your face, tubes, and open skin. Always clean your hands before you eat. If you are unable to wash your hands in the sink or reach a wall mounted sanitizer, ask your care provider to place a sanitizer near your bedside. Encourage everyone who enters your room to clean their hands too.

Let's work together to keep your room clean and clutter free!

Adapted from: APIC Keeping Your Hospital Room Clean