

# Infection Prevention Power Tools

## Caught Red-Handed: Hand Hygiene



**Let's Get Started:** Caught Red-Handed is a hands-on, eye-opening way to practice hand hygiene and safe glove removal.

**Supplies:** Washable acrylic paint, gloves in different sizes, hand sanitizer, and paper towels (just in case).

### Step-by-Step Caught Red-Handed Educator Guide

1. **Clean hands:** Casually encourage everyone to do hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub and then put on gloves. Remind them to always do this before putting on gloves.
2. **Get ready:** Demonstrate adding 1.5 inches of paint (size of a ping-pong ball) onto your flat gloved palm. Have each everyone do the same.
3. **Hand hygiene:** Ask everyone to close their eyes and repeat the motions they just used for hand hygiene, but now with the gloves and paint.
4. **Spot check.** Ask everyone open their eyes and examine their hands. Are any spots missed? Point out common misses like fingertips, thumbs, and between the fingers.
5. **Refine the routine.** Practice the [World Health Organization hand hygiene process](#) together while the paint is still wet. You can use a visual aid or poster if helpful..
6. **Remove with care.** Demonstrate how to [safely remove gloves](#) without getting paint on your hands. Then, have everyone try it. See who avoids getting “caught red-handed.”
7. **Reinforce the why.** End with a reminder that gloves don't replace good hand hygiene. Always clean your hands after removing gloves to protect yourself and others.



### Engagement Boosters

- **Pop of color:** Use paint colors that pop against gloves (red on blue) or tie to themes (brown during enteric outbreaks).
- **Just in time:** Do impromptu refreshers in the clinical area.
- **Palm Patrol:** Encourage peers to give shout-outs for stellar hand hygiene and cheer each other on.
- **Make a mark:** Create a hand hygiene education board where everyone can leave painted handprints to show their commitment to cleaning all parts of their hands.
- **Resources:** Scan the QR code or use the link for trusted hand hygiene resources at the [VDH HAI/AR hand hygiene page](#)

