

Study at Long Island's North Shore Univ. hospital finds when cam is on, med staff do keep hands really clean

Arrowsight Inc.'s monitors have docs cleaning up

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Only when Big Brother is watching do hospital staff keep their hands really clean.

A hygiene study at a Long Island hospital found that hand-washing rates rose dramatically when cameras were installed to monitor doctors and nurses.

The North Shore University Hospital tracked the behavior of its staff as they entered and exited patient rooms.

Over a 16-week period, only 10% of the medics cleaned their hands within 10 seconds of coming into contact with a patient.

Yet once LED screens were fitted to walls by sanitizing stations, with a blinking red light telling staff their image had been recorded, the rate of hand cleaning rose to more than 80%.

"Hand washing has been shown to be the backbone of infection control for the last 150 years," said [Dr. Bruce Farber](#), the Chief of Infectious Diseases at North Shore University Hospital who oversaw the study.

"It is one of the most important aspects of preventing the spread of infectious diseases from patient to patient by the hands of healthcare professionals."

The hospital partnered with Arrowsight, Inc., the developers of a remote video auditing platform that flashed updates every 10 minutes to show how successful staff were at using the sanitizing stations.

Hand cleaning rates stayed well above 80% for the following 17-month period thanks to the new technology, according to the study published in the *Clinical Infectious Diseases* journal.

Medical professionals say the findings are critical to patient care given that one in 20 people develop infections while in hospital, figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show.

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A system installed by Arrowsight, Inc. at North Shore, helped significantly boost hygiene, study finds.