PROJECT FIRSTLINE

CDC's National Training Collaborative for Healthcare Infection Control

Reaching the Frontlines

As a collaborative, Project Firstline brings together more than 75 healthcare, academic, and public health partners to reach healthcare workers across the country with infection control education.

Project Firstline offers educational resources in a variety of formats to meet the diverse learning needs and preferences of the healthcare workforce. Resources are designed using adult learning expertise, educational best practices, CDC recommendations, and the science that informs them.

Project Firstline addresses long-standing gaps in infection control knowledge and practice in healthcare settings nationwide.

Challenges we need to overcome:

► Disparities in infection control expertise in the current healthcare workforce
► Structural gaps in infection control training and education
► Lack of understanding in educational approaches for healthcare workers
► Framing of infection control as a combination of rules, policies, and procedures

Project Firstline is funded by the American Rescue Plan through FY 2026. The need for infection control training, education, and innovation is ongoing.

PROJECT FIRSTLINE IS UNIQUE

Project Firstline:

Listens to healthcare workers
• Resources are developed with healthcare workers, specifically for healthcare workers

Appreciates the value of every healthcare worker and the role they play in infection control
• Content is accessible to all healthcare workers, regardless of previous training or background knowledge

Recognizes that bandwidth is low due to COVID-related burnout and trauma
• Bite-sized content is tailored for practice and on-the-go use and is designed to be integrated into the workday

Meets healthcare workers where they are
• Taps into intrinsic work-related motivations
• Leverages existing strengths and knowledge sources
• Teaches the "why" behind infection control recommendations as much as the "what" and "how"

Is committed to healthcare equity
• Educational resources and dissemination methods are tailored for the diverse healthcare workforce, including translations for those who speak Spanish and multiple Asian languages

PROJECT FIRSTLINE: BY THE NUMBERS

As of May 2022, Project Firstline and its collaborative partners have:

Developed **200+** educational products and training materials on healthcare infection control

Hosted **750+** educational events, reaching approximately **65,238** healthcare workers

Received **84 million+** views across the web and various digital platforms

PARTNERSHIP BRINGS GREATER IMPACT

At Project Firstline, we believe that partnership brings greater impact by expanding our reach with diverse healthcare audiences and settings.

Project Firstline's healthcare and public health partners used a wide range of methods – from Twitter chats, to podcasts, to virtual training events in multiple languages—to reach healthcare workers with important infection control information. **Project Firstline's academic partners** implement programs to inform and improve infection control recommendations and practices and develop evidence-based approaches to infection control training and education.

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Health Care Association
- American Medical Association
- American Nurses Association
- Armstrong Institute Center for Health Care Human Factors, John Hopkins Medicine
- Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- Boise State University
- Emory University
- Florida A&M University
- Health Research & Educational Trust
- Institute for Healthcare Improvement
- Johns Hopkins Institute Applied Physics Laboratory
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Council of Urban Indian Health
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- National Indian Health Board
- National Network of Public Health Institutes
- NYC Health + Hospitals / Bellevue Hospital
- PRISMA Health – Midlands
- Public Health Foundation
- RTI International
- University of California, Irvine
- University of Iowa
- University of Nebraska Medical Center / Nebraska Medicine
- University of South Florida
- University of Washington
- Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation

Project Firstline's 64 state, local, and territorial health department partners adapt, create, and disseminate infection control educational materials to meet the needs of the healthcare workers they serve throughout their jurisdictions.

www.cdc.gov/ProjectFirstline

WE HAVE THE POWER TO STOP INFECTIONS. TOGETHER.

CDC

PROJECT **FIRST**LINE
CDC's National Training Collaborative for Healthcare Infection Prevention & Control

MD Project Firstline
Free Online Infection Control Courses

Benefits to Your Organization

- Free continuing education

- Printable certificates of completion

- Free, ready-to-use resources from a trusted source at your team's fingertips

- Displays your organization's commitment to employee and patient safety, which can set you apart in a competitive job market

Features

- 24/7 access, so staff on any shift can use it

- Courses and materials are available in multiple languages

- Content teaches the "why" behind infection control recommendations so team members can identify risks before they become a problem

- The format allows team members to work independently, which may be ideal for onboarding new employees

- Access to posters and job aids to reinforce learning

- Content designed for everyone regardless of current training or knowledge

Scan to get started now.

Visit **mdfirstline.org** for more information.

Email:
mdfirstline@hqi.solutions

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Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Free Online Infection Control Courses
Quick Start Checklist

✓ **Hang the Project Firstline *Start Now* flyer** in a common employee area, such as the break room. This poster contains a QR code that employees can scan to easily get started.

✓ **Send an email** to your employees to let them know about Project Firstline courses and their benefits. You can create your own email, or use the template provided in this toolkit.

✓ **Hang the laminated posters** around your facility. For example, post "How to Read a Disinfectant Label" near your cleaning supplies.

✓ **Sign up for our newsletter** to hear about upcoming free webinars and new resources.

✓ **Check out more posters and job aids online.**

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Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Start Now
Online Infection Control Courses

Learn the "why" behind infection control recommendations

Learn to identify risks before they become a problem

Learn how to protect yourself, your patients, and your family

Meant for everyone, regardless of current training or knowledge

Printable certificates of completion

Short courses accessible 24/7 from any computer or mobile device

Courses are offered in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Tagalog, Chinese and Russian

Scan to get started now.

Visit **mdfirstline.org** for more information.

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Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[Sample Email to Employees]

Subject Line: Free Infection Control Training with MD Project Firstline

[Personalized Greeting]

I am happy to announce that MD Project Firstline now offers online infection control courses for healthcare workers and environmental services team members. These short courses can be accessed anytime via computer or mobile device. Everyone can participate, regardless of current training or knowledge. We highly recommend that you take advantage of these free CDC-approved materials.

Benefits Include:

- Continuing Education credits
- Printable completion certificates
- Learn the "why" behind infection control recommendations
- Learn to identify risks before they become a problem
- Learn how to protect yourself, your patients, and your family

Additionally, these courses are offered in multiple languages. It's easy to get started. Create an account at **learn.hqi.solutions** to access the online courses, and remember to print the completion and/or CE certificates for your personnel file.

Sincerely,

Your Name

There are thousands of germs on this poster... *and everywhere else.*

Recognize the risks.
Protect your patients.

Bacteria found on mobile phone, including *E. coli, Haemophilus influenzae,* and MRSA.

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Cited paper: Chirca, I. (2019). The hospital environment and its microbial burden: challenges and solutions. *Future Microbiology,* 14, 1007–1010.

GERMS LIVE ON THE SKIN.

WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients

Germs spread through touch.

- Many germs grow on healthy skin.
- Germs on skin can get onto surfaces, other people, and things that will touch other people.
- Skin – especially hands – carries many germs and spreads them easily.
- When one's hands touch surfaces, germs can spread from those surfaces to that person and to others.
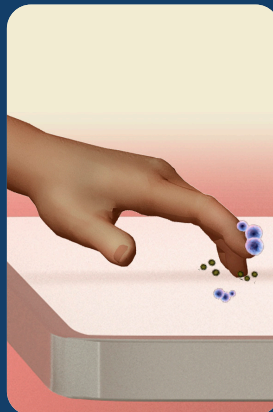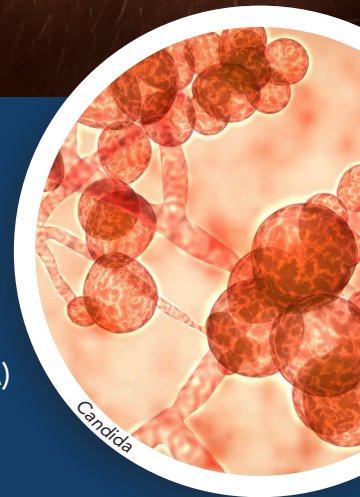
Germs spread by bypassing or breaking down the body's defenses.

- Healthcare tasks often involve breaking the skin.
- Breaking the skin – from putting in an IV, drawing blood, surgery, or trauma – creates a pathway for germs to spread into the body.

Germs That Live on Skin

- *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph, including *MRSA*)
- *Streptococcus* (strep)
- *Candida* (including *C. auris*)

Candida

Healthcare Tasks Involving Skin

- Anything that involves touch
- Needlesticks
- Surgery

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Hand hygiene
- Appropriate glove use
- Injection safety
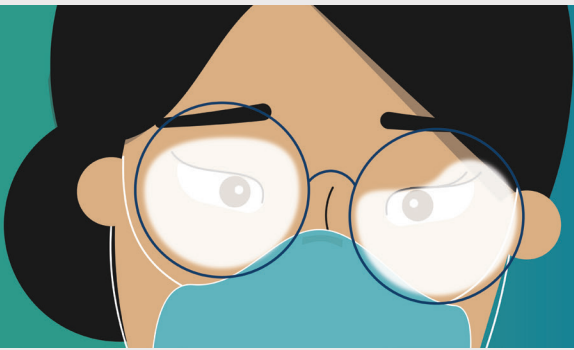- Cleaning and disinfection
- Source control (covering cuts and wounds)

The main way that (**SARS-CoV-2**), **the virus that causes the disease** (**COVID-19**), travels between people is through

RESPIRATORY DROPLETS

Every time you breathe out of your nose or mouth, you don't breathe out just air.
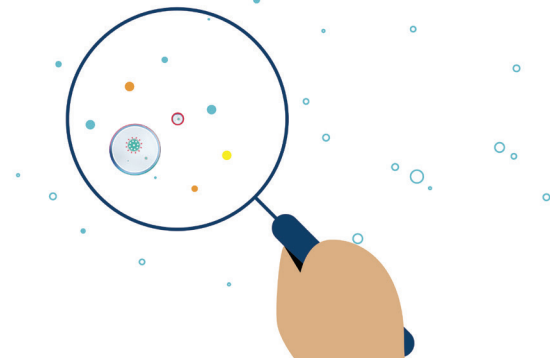
You are also breathing out water.

The water in your breath is what makes your glasses fog up when you are wearing a mask and why you can see your breath on a cold day.

That water is respiratory droplets of different sizes that travel different distances in the air.

Most droplets are so tiny, you usually can't see them. When someone is infected with SARS-CoV-2, the droplets that they breathe out have virus particles in them.

As a healthcare worker, you can better protect your patients, coworkers, and yourself from COVID-19 when you understand what respiratory droplets are.

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#WEAREFIRSTLINE

GERMS LIVE IN WATER AND ON WET SURFACES.

WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients

- Tap water is safe to drink, but it is not sterile. It always has some germs in it.

- Most of the time, the germs in tap water aren't a problem for healthy people, but they can cause illness in patients with very weak immune systems.

- Germs in water can spread to surfaces and people and cause harm.

- If medical instruments and equipment (e.g., devices and central lines) get wet, bacteria can grow. When those devices are used, that bacteria can then get into a patient's body or blood and cause infection.

Germs That Live in Water

- *Acinetobacter*
- *Serratia*
- *Pseudomonas*
- *Legionella*

Pseudomonas aeruginosa

Healthcare Tasks Involving Water

- Toileting
- Cleaning
- Handwashing

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Device sterilization
- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, eye protection)

How to Read a Disinfectant Label

Active Ingredients:
What are the main disinfecting chemicals?

EPA Registration Number:
U.S. laws require that all disinfectants be registered with EPA.

Directions for Use (Instructions for Use):

Where should the disinfectant be used?

What germs does the disinfectant kill?

What types of surfaces can the disinfectant be used on?

How do I properly use the disinfectant?

Contact Time:
How long does the surface have to stay wet with the disinfectant to kill germs?

Signal Words (Caution, Warning, Danger):
How risky is this disinfectant if it is swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin?

Precautionary Statements:
How do I use this disinfectant safely? Do I need PPE?

First Aid:
What should I do if I get the disinfectant in my eyes or mouth, on my skin, or if I breathe it in?

Storage & Disposal:
How should the disinfectant be stored? How should I dispose of expired disinfectant? What should I do with the container?

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS:
Alkyl (60% C14, 30% C16, 5% C12, 5% C18)
      Dimenthyl Benzyl Ammonium Chloride 10.0%
OTHER INGREDIENTS:..90.0%
TOTAL:...100.0%

EPA REG NO. 55555-55-55555

CAUTION

Directions for Use

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:
It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.

For Disinfection of Healthcare Organisms:
Staphylococcus aureus, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

To Disinfect Hard, Nonporous Surfaces:
Pre-wash surface.

Mop or wipe with disinfectant solution.

Allow solution to stay wet on surface for at least 10 minutes.

Rinse well and air dry.

PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS: Hazardous to humans and domestic animals. Wear gloves and eye protection.

CAUSES MODERATE EYE IRRITATION. Avoid contact with eyes, skin or clothing. Wash thoroughly with soap and water after handling. Avoid contact with foods.

FIRST AID: IF IN EYES: Hold eye open and rinse slowly and gently with water for 15-20 minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present, after the first 5 minutes, then continue rinsing eye. **IF ON SKIN OR CLOTHING:** Take off contaminated clothing. Rinse skin immediately with plenty of water for 15-20 minutes.

POISON CONTROL: Call a Poison Control Center (1-866-366-5048) or doctor for treatment advice.

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL: Store this product in a cool, dry area away from direct sunlight and heat. When not in use keep center cap of lid closed to prevent moisture loss. Nonrefillable container. Do not reuse or refill this container.

EXP MM-DD-YYYY

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