

# Infection Control Micro-Learns

## User Guide



### About the Micro-Learns

The Project Firstline *Infection Control Micro-Learns* are a series of guided infection control discussions that provide brief, on-the-job educational opportunities. Each micro-learn focuses on a single infection control topic and connects infection control concepts to immediate, practical value. Healthcare workers can easily apply the key points to their daily work and perform the recommended actions to keep germs from spreading.

### Using the Micro-Learns

The micro-learns can be incorporated into existing opportunities where groups of healthcare workers gather, such as pre-shift “huddles” or team meetings. The sessions should be led or facilitated by an experienced team member with infection control expertise.

**Each micro-learn package includes an adaptable discussion guide for the facilitator and one job aid.**



**Discussion Guide.** The discussion guide is not a script. Facilitators are encouraged to adapt the guide for their audience by incorporating relevant and practical questions and ideas. For instance, facilitators can connect the content to the audience’s job duties, facility-specific cases or issues, resources and points of contact, or other information.



**Job Aid.** The one-page, visual job aid helps to reinforce the key messages of the micro-learn. Facilitators are encouraged to make the job aid available after the micro-learn session, such as in digital or hard copy form.

### Notes for Facilitators

- Before presenting a micro-learn, check the policies and protocols at your facility and adapt the content accordingly.
- Build on your knowledge, experience, and awareness to connect the content to local context or relevant recent events so that your audience can apply the concepts confidently.
- The micro-learns reinforce infection control concepts when risks are observed in patients or in the patient environment, not necessarily in visitors or other staff members.
- Remind your audience that if they see a patient in distress—e.g., with shortness of breath, bleeding, or otherwise at risk of immediate harm—they should respond to the emergency according to facility protocols.

# Blood Micro-Learn Discussion Guide:

## What to do when you see blood

Use the talking points below and accompanying job aid to engage your team in short, focused discussion. Adapt to meet your needs.

### 1. Introduce the topic

Share key information about the topic that your audience should **know and connect to your local context**:

- Always assume blood is infectious. People who are infected with bloodborne pathogens don't always have symptoms, but their blood and some body fluids still have virus in them.
- The pathogens in blood that are the most concerning infection risks in health care are HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.
- Bloodborne pathogens can be spread when infected blood enters the body, like:
  - From a needlestick
  - Through breaks or cracks in the skin, or
  - By splashes or sprays to the eyes, nose, or mouth

### 2. Expand on the topic

Share information about what your audience should **do**:

- Because we always assume blood is infectious, infection control actions for blood focus on preventing infected blood from entering the body and limiting its spread in the environment and between people.
- Don't touch blood without gloves on.
- When you see blood, look for sharps.
  - If you see sharps, safely dispose of them in a sharps container.
  - If you're approaching a place where a procedure was done, be careful handling drapes, linens, or other items that might be hiding a needle or other used sharps.
- When you're using sharps, plan ahead. Pick one location to keep sharps in before you start a procedure so you can keep track of them and know where to find the sharps containers to dispose of them safely as soon as you're finished.

### 3. Discuss with your team

Find out how your audience feels about the topic. Sample questions include:

- What do you usually do when you see blood? Do you worry that you might catch something? When might you call for help or assistance?
- Do you have all the tools and information you need to do your job safely?
- As a team, how can we help each other take the right infection control actions when we see blood to keep germs from spreading?

### 4. Wrap up and reinforce

Reinforce key takeaways:

- Always assume blood is infectious.
- Don't touch blood without gloves on.

Share related facility-specific information and cue to follow-up opportunities:

- Connect content with information such as where to find sharps containers, what to do and whom to call if there is an exposure, recent cases or examples of issues, or other relevant information.
- Share reminders, prompts, and opportunities for further learning as appropriate, including the Project Firstline website at [cdc.gov/projectfirstline](https://cdc.gov/projectfirstline).

# What Should You Do If You See Blood?

**Use Gloves If You're Going to Touch Blood**



After completing your task, remove gloves right away and clean your hands.

**Use the Right PPE If Splashes and Sprays Are Likely**



The PPE you use should protect your skin, eyes, nose, and mouth.

**Always Act As If Blood Is Infectious**

**Clean Your Hands**



Always clean hands after tasks involving blood – gloves are not a substitute for hand hygiene.

**Look for Sharps**



Handle needles and sharp items carefully and safely dispose of them in a sharps container.

**Learn More**

Germes Can Live in Blood: <http://bit.ly/3GUqFKo>  
CDC One and Only Campaign: <https://bit.ly/3QAS6w6>