

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.

Draining Wound Micro-Learn Discussion Guide:

What to do when you see a patient with a draining wound

Use the talking points below and accompanying job aid to engage your team in a 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**:

- A draining wound is a break in the skin or other tissue that has liquid coming out of it. This liquid moves and spreads easily, so draining wounds are treated differently from other types of wounds that can be covered or contained.
 - A draining wound is a warm, wet place where germs grow easily.
 - A draining wound is also a vulnerable spot on the patient that should be handled carefully, both to keep germs from spreading and to protect the patient from germs.
- Draining wounds can be caused by, or contain:
 - germs that can spread easily by touch, like MRSA and group A strep;
 - germs commonly found in stool that are often also found on skin, like *Klebsiella* and VRE; and
 - germs that spread by blood and bodily fluids, like HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.

2. Expand on the topic

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

- Always assume the liquid in a draining wound is infectious, even if the drainage is clear. Don't touch the liquid or the wound if you don't have to.
- If you have to touch anywhere near the wound, or anything that could have been contaminated by liquid from the wound, clean your hands and use gloves.
 - Always clean your hands as soon as you take your gloves off.
 - Depending on the situation, you might need other personal protective equipment (PPE), like a gown or eye protection, to protect yourself.
- It is often best to cover the wound to contain the drainage and protect the open tissue. In rare situations, however, wounds should not be covered. Consult with the clinical team before covering a draining wound.

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 a draining wound? Do you worry that you might catch something? How do you protect yourself and your patient? 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 a draining wound to keep germs from spreading?

4. Wrap up and reinforce

Reinforce key takeaways:

- Don't touch a draining wound or the liquid from it, without clean hands and the right PPE.

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

- Connect content with information such as whom to contact about wound care, relevant facility protocols such as where to find PPE and wound care supplies, recent cases or examples of patients with draining wounds, or other relevant information.
- Share reminders, prompts, and opportunities for further learning as appropriate, including the Project Firstline website at [cdc.gov/projectfirstline](https://www.cdc.gov/projectfirstline).

What to do if you see a patient with a draining wound

Assume the liquid from a draining wound is infectious, even if the drainage is clear.

Don't touch a draining wound or the liquid from it without clean hands and the right PPE.

If you have to touch the wound or liquid, always wear gloves. Always clean your hands as soon as you take your gloves off.



If there's a risk of your clothes touching the wound or liquid, you might need a gown.



If there's a chance you could be splashed, you might need a mask and eye protection.



LEARN MORE

Germ Live on the Skin Infographic: <https://bit.ly/3OEGTty>
PPE: Gloves and Gowns Session Plan: <https://bit.ly/44bGkNz>
Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Session Plan: <https://bit.ly/3KBBTVF>