

User Guide

About the EVS Micro-Learns

Environmental services (EVS) workers are vital members of the healthcare team and are crucial to stopping the spread of germs in health care. Project Firstline's *EVS Micro-Learns: Essentials for Infection Control* are a series of guided discussions that provide brief, on-the-job educational opportunities on infection control topics relevant to EVS tasks.

Using the EVS Micro-Learns

The micro-learns can be incorporated into existing opportunities where EVS 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 specific to EVS.



Each EVS micro-learn package includes an adaptable discussion guide for the facilitator and a job aid, which facilitators are encouraged to review prior to presenting.



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, and 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 in digital or hard copy form.

Use the QR code to provide feedback on this training.



Sink Drains: Environmental Services (EVS)

Prepare:

Environmental services (EVS) workers are the first line of defense in stopping harmful germs from spreading in the healthcare environment. Cleaning and disinfecting sinks and drains help stop the spread of germs to patients and equipment. As you present the information below, provide examples relevant to your team and any facility-specific guidance related to this topic.

Share key information:

- Sinks and drains are an ideal environment for germs to live and grow.
- Drains are connected to the sewer. This means that germs in the sewer can be found in plumbing all the way up to the drain.
- These germs can build up in the plumbing to form slimy layers called biofilms.
- When water splashes out of a dirty drain, it can spread germs from the biofilm to your skin and nearby surfaces and equipment.
- Make sure supplies and patient items are stored away from sinks and drains so that they don't get splashed.
- Don't dump liquids like juice or IV fluid down the drain of a handwashing sink because this can feed the biofilm and help it grow.
 - **Facilitator Note:** *Discuss how and where to safely dispose of liquids during cleaning.*
- Regular cleaning and disinfection of sinks, drains, and countertops can help stop the spread of harmful germs.
 - When cleaning, it is important to keep in mind that solutions like bleach should never be dumped down drains because large amounts of these chemicals can harm the pipes.

Reinforce key points:

- Germs can live and grow in drain biofilms and can spread to patients and cause infections.
- When you clean and disinfect sinks, drains, and sink areas during daily room cleaning, you are helping to stop the spread of harmful germs and saving lives.

Drains and Biofilms: Hiding Places for Germs



Germs in the sewer, including drug-resistant germs, can be found in the plumbing all the way up to the drain.



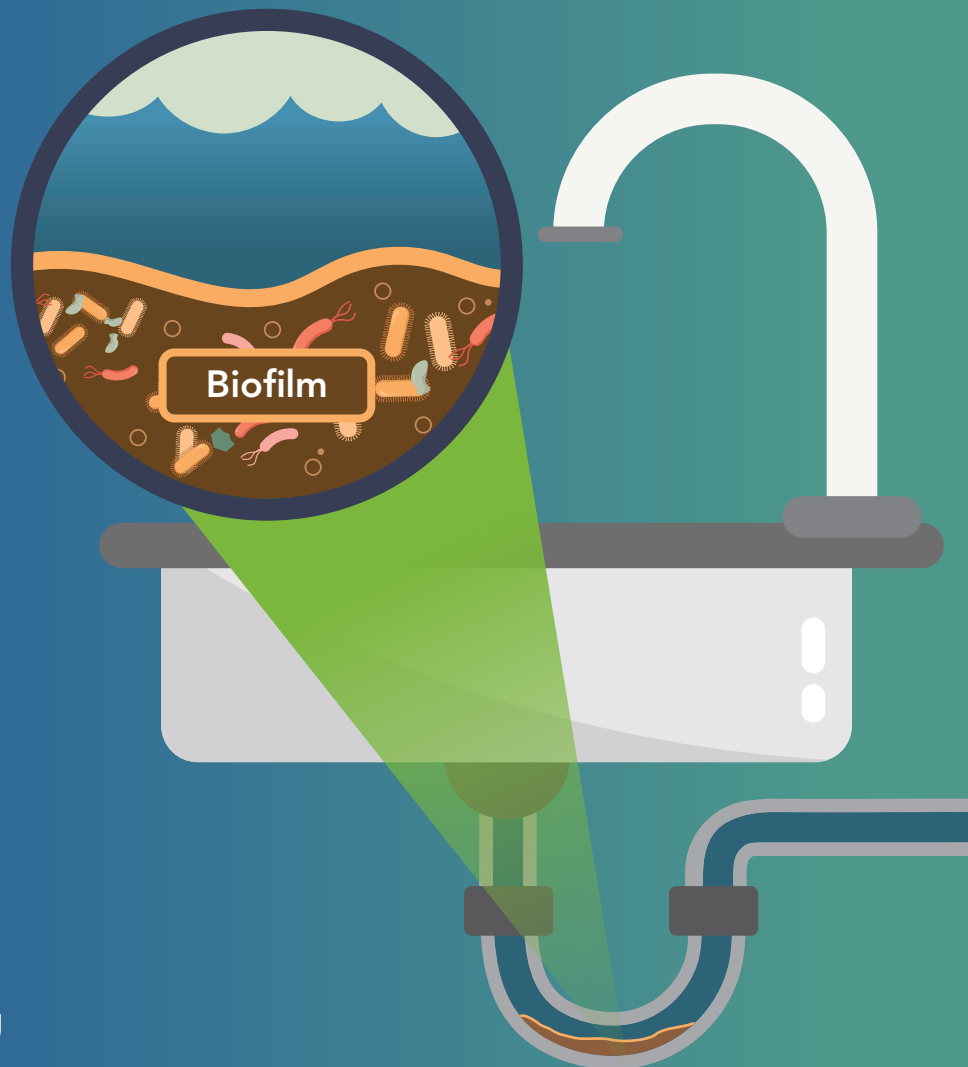
Drain biofilms are slimy layers of germs that can splash out of the sink.



Don't feed the biofilm! Never dispose of liquid waste (e.g., drinks, IV fluids) in a handwashing sink.



Reduce germ spread by keeping supplies away from the sink, minimizing splashes, and cleaning and disinfecting sinks and countertops regularly.



Learn More

Water and wet surfaces: <https://bit.ly/3MPGoAk>