EVS Micro-Learns: Essentials for Infection Control

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.

Micro-Learn Discussion Guide:

Water in Health Care: Environmental Services (EVS)

PROJECT FIRSTLINE

Prepare:

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

Share key information:

- Germs can live and grow in tap water, and these germs can spread and cause infections in patients.
  - **Facilitator note:** *Give an example of a drug-resistant germ that your facility is monitoring and why it is a concern (e.g.,* Pseudomonas, Acinetobacter, Burkholderia cepacia*).*
- When sterile water is required for patient care and related equipment, you can't use tap water instead because tap water normally contains germs.
- Healthy people can drink tap water because their immune systems protect them from the germs found in tap water.

Reinforce key points:

- Tap water is clean and safe to drink, but it may have harmful germs in it that can spread to patients and cause infection.

Water in Health Care

PROJECT FIRSTLINE

Tap water is clean and safe to drink, but it may have harmful germs in it that can spread to patients and cause infection.

Tap water normally contains germs and should not be used when sterile water is needed for patient care and related equipment.

Healthy people can drink tap water because their immune systems protect them from the germs found in the tap water.

Learn More

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