PROJECT FIRSTLINE

Access Education Materials

Learn About Infection Control in Health Care

Learn About Infection Control and COVID-19

Launched in 2020, CDC's Project Firstline is a collaborative of diverse healthcare, public health and academic partners committed to providing **infection control training designed especially for healthcare workers**

Interactive Resources

Videos and Social Media Graphics

Earn Continuing Education

Spanish Resources Recursos en español

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)

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)

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GERMS LIVE IN WATER AND ON WET SURFACES.

WHERE IS THE RISK?
Know where germs live in water to stop spread and protect patients

Germs That Live in Water
- Acinetobacter
- Serratia
- Pseudomonas
- Legionella

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)

- 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, bacteria can then get into a patient's body or blood and cause infection.

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Print Materials and Job Aids

There are thousands of germs on this poster… and everywhere else.
Recognize the risks. Protect your patients.

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Training Toolkits

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Infection Prevention and Control Resource Hub

Long-Term Care Facility Antibiotic Stewardship

More than **2.8 million** antibiotic-resistant infections occur in the United States each year, and more than **35,000 people** die as a result.

BE ANTIBIOTICS AWARE
SMART USE, BEST CARE

CDC

Take advantage of opportunities for education, feedback, and discussion with experts around promoting and implementing AS strategies. Explore some available tools and resources and begin reporting your long-term care facility antibiotic start data.

The Resource Hub for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) offers:

- ✓ Recorded webinars
- ✓ Print material
- ✓ Toolkits
- ✓ Posters in multiple languages

Enhanced Barrier Precautions

The CDC has introduced an approach for preventing transmission of Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDROs) in nursing homes called Enhanced Barrier Precautions (EBP). Enhanced Barrier Precautions fall between Standard and Contact Precautions and requires gown and glove use for certain residents during specific high-contact resident care activities that are associated with increased risk for MDRO transmission.

HIGH-CONTACT RESIDENT CARE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:
- Dressing
- Bathing/showering
- Transferring
- Providing hygiene
- Changing linens
- Changing briefs or assisting with toileting
- Device care or use: central line, urinary catheter, feeding tube, tracheostomy/ventilator
- Wound care: any skin opening requiring a dressing

ENHANCED BARRIER PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE USED FOR ALL RESIDENTS WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:
- Infection or colonization with an MDRO* when Contact Precautions do not apply
- Residents with wounds and/or indwelling medical devices (e.g., central line, urinary catheter, feeding tube, tracheostomy/ventilator) regardless of MDRO status

*MDROs include but are not limited to:
- Pan-resistant organisms
- Carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs)
- Candida auris
- Carbapenem-resistant Acinetobacter baumannii (CRAB)
- Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE)
- Carbapenem-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa (CRPA)
- Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)
- ESBL-producing Enterobacterales
- Vancomycin-resistant Enterococci (VRE)
- Drug-resistant Streptococcus pneumoniae

ENHANCED BARRIER PRECAUTIONS SHOULD NOT BE USED (USE CONTACT PRECAUTIONS INSTEAD) FOR:

All residents infected or colonized with an MDRO* in any of the following situations:
- Presence of acute diarrhea, draining wounds or other sites of secretions or excretions that are unable to be covered or contained
- On units or in facilities where ongoing transmission is documented or suspected
- OR for infections (e.g., C. difficile, norovirus, scabies) and other conditions where Contact Precautions are indicated

Guidance for Control of Multi-drug Resistant Organisms (MDROs) in Massachusetts

Toolkit for Acute Care, Long-term Acute Care, Skilled Nursing, Ambulatory Care, Community-Based, and Homecare Settings

Division of Epidemiology HAI/AR Program
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Phone: 617-983-6800
Fax: 617-983-6813
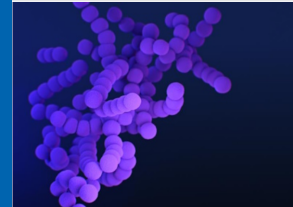www.mass.gov/dph
June 2023

Featured Webinars!

How to Start an Antibiotic Stewardship Program

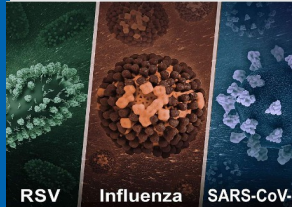Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Skilled Nursing Facilities

The Role of Hand Hygiene in Limiting the Spread of MDROs

Asymptomatic Bacteriuria vs. UTI

Overview of Invasive Group A Streptococcus (GAS) for Long-Term Care Facilities

RSV Influenza SARS-CoV-2

Respiratory Viral Illness Update