

# 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.



# Clean and Safe Carts for Environmental Services (EVS)

## Prepare:

Environmental services (EVS) workers are the first line of defense in stopping harmful germs from spreading in the healthcare environment. EVS workers use their carts every day throughout the facility so it's important to keep them clean so they don't spread germs. Keeping carts organized also helps keep them clean. 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 spread easily to and from your EVS cart, which is why keeping a clean cart is important.
  - Don't touch your clean cart or supplies with dirty gloves or dirty hands.
    - Remove gloves and clean your hands before taking new supplies from the cart.
  - Regularly clean and disinfect your cart according to your facility's policy, especially the high-touch surfaces like the handlebars and shelves.
    - **Facilitator note:** *Provide some examples of how germs can spread to and from a cart and share your facility's policies on how to clean and disinfect EVS carts.*
- Having an organized cart makes your cleaning and disinfection tasks easier.
  - Keep toilet brushes, mop heads, and other reusable supplies at the bottom of the cart, so they do not contaminate clean supplies.
  - Check to make sure the products you use are not expired, because expired products do not work well enough to kill germs.
  - Make sure diluted chemicals are labeled properly, not expired, and kept at the bottom of the cart to avoid spills.
  - Do not keep personal items on the cart, because they can get dirty and spread germs.
- Plan ahead to reduce the number of times you have to remove your gloves and clean your hands before you touch the cart during cleaning.

## Reinforce key points:

- EVS carts are a critical part of helping you do your job.
- A clean, organized EVS cart helps prevent the spread of harmful germs, protecting you, your coworkers, and your patients.

# Be Cart Smart



## Infection control starts with your EVS cart.

Remove gloves and clean your hands before taking new supplies off the cart.

Regularly clean and disinfect your cart.

Restock items at the beginning of your shift and make sure the products you use are not expired.

Always keep the EVS cart where you can see it.

Plan ahead to reduce the number of times you touch the cart while cleaning.

Do not keep personal items on the cart.

Clearly separate clean items from dirty items.

Make sure diluted chemicals are labeled and dated, with liquids kept at the bottom of the cart.

CAUTION  
WET FLOOR

TRASH

**Learn More**

Dry Surfaces Infographic: <https://bit.ly/3NsoUtV>  
How to Read a Disinfectant Label: <https://bit.ly/4bxqVy7>

