

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.



Effective Cleaning and Disinfection Start with Preparation

Prepare:

Environmental services (EVS) workers are the first line of defense in stopping harmful germs from spreading in the healthcare environment. Cleaning and disinfection remove and kill germs, which helps prevent infections in patients, healthcare workers, and others. As you present the information below, provide examples relevant to your team and any facility-specific guidance related to this topic.

Share key information:

- Taking time to prepare before your cleaning and disinfection tasks will help keep everyone in the healthcare setting safe from harmful germs.
- Before you get started:
 - Look at the area you will clean and identify possible infection risks.
 - **Facilitator Note:** *Discuss scenarios that might be a risk (e.g., spills of bodily fluids, needles or other sharps).*
 - Decide what personal protective equipment (PPE) you will need to do your work safely and prevent the spread of germs.
 - **Facilitator Note:** *Provide examples of tasks that may need PPE.*
- Cleaning and disinfecting tips to remember:
 - Work from cleaner surfaces (e.g., cabinets) to dirtier surfaces (e.g., bathroom floors).
 - Work from high to low areas to avoid germs falling or dripping onto areas that are already clean (e.g., clean the toilet before you clean the floor around the toilet).
 - Pay special attention to high-risk areas, such as areas that are frequently touched (e.g., bedrails) or likely to be especially dirty (e.g., the area around toilets).
 - **Facilitator Note:** *Share examples of high-risk areas relevant to your team.*
 - Review contact times for disinfectants before use, because some germs may require different contact times.
 - **Facilitator Note:** *Bring up any specific disinfectants that your team uses and remind your team that contact time is the amount of time a disinfectant must be wet on a surface to effectively kill germs.*

Reinforce key points:

- Cleaning and disinfection remove and kill germs, which helps keep everyone in the healthcare setting safe.
- Take time to prepare before cleaning and disinfection to safely and effectively complete your tasks.

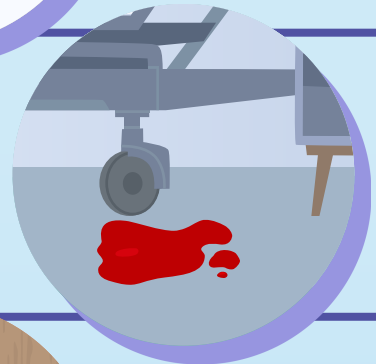
Effective Cleaning and Disinfection Start with Preparation

Before you enter a room:

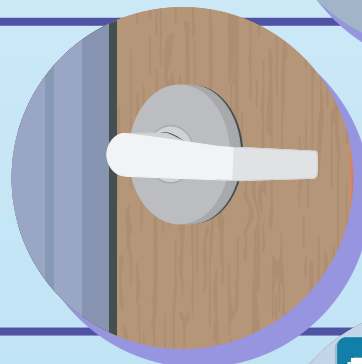
- ✓ Decide what personal protective equipment (PPE) you will need and have those supplies ready.



- ✓ Think about how you will deal with hazards, such as blood or body fluid spills on the floor.



- ✓ Identify high-risk surfaces, such as those that are frequently touched or likely to be extra dirty.



- ✓ Plan the order of your cleaning and disinfecting tasks to prevent further germ spread, moving from high to low surfaces and from clean to dirtier surfaces.



Learn More

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