

# Infection Control Micro-Learns User Guide



## About the Micro-Learns

The Project Firstline Infection Control Micro-Learns are a series of guided infection control discussions that provide brief, on-the-job educational opportunities. Each micro-learn focuses on a single infection control topic and connects infection control concepts to immediate, practical value. Healthcare workers can easily apply the key points to their daily work and perform the recommended actions to keep germs from spreading.

## Using the Micro-Learns

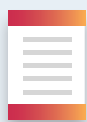
The micro-learns can be incorporated into existing opportunities where groups of healthcare workers gather, such as pre-shift “huddles” or team meetings. The sessions should be led or facilitated by an experienced team member with infection control expertise.

## Notes for Facilitators

- Before presenting a micro-learn, check the policies and protocols at your facility and adapt the content accordingly.
- Build on your knowledge, experience, and awareness to connect the content to local context or relevant recent events so that your audience can apply the concepts confidently.
- The micro-learns reinforce infection control concepts when risks are observed in patients or in the patient environment, not necessarily in visitors or other staff members.



**Each micro-learn package includes an adaptable discussion guide for the facilitator and one 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, or 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, such as in digital or hard copy form.

Use the QR code to provide feedback on this training



# Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Use the talking points below and accompanying job aid to engage your team in short, focused discussion. Adapt to meet your needs.

## Overview

- Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a very contagious respiratory illness that can lead to severe illness and even death.
  - Pertussis is especially dangerous for infants, older individuals, and people with respiratory conditions such as asthma or those who are immunocompromised.
  - Because pertussis is very contagious and can be dangerous, it's important for everyone in the healthcare facility to be prepared to quickly recognize possible pertussis and take action to prevent spread.
- The best way to protect healthcare workers and patients from pertussis is to be up to date on your pertussis vaccine.
  - **Facilitator note:** Discuss what your facility does to prevent pertussis from spreading in your healthcare facility.

## Recognizing Pertussis

- Early symptoms last one to two weeks and may look like a common cold, including a stuffy or runny nose, low-grade fever, and mild cough.
- Later symptoms include frequent coughing fits that can cause vomiting, a high-pitched whooping sound when breathing in, and trouble breathing.
- Infants and young children may not cough but can have trouble breathing, pauses in breathing, or skin that turns blue.

# Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

*(continued)*

## Take Action to Reduce the Risk of Spread:

- Contact the patient's care team or your supervisor if you notice symptoms of possible pertussis.
- Provide patients who have symptoms of a respiratory infection with a facemask and separate them from others when possible.
- Talk to your doctor about getting vaccinated against pertussis if you are not up to date on your pertussis vaccine.
- Wear a facemask when caring for or entering the room of a patient with suspected pertussis or other respiratory infections.
- Use additional personal protective equipment (PPE) if you think you might come in contact with blood or body fluids, like using eye protection if you are at risk for sprays from coughing.
- Continue the infection control actions you use for every patient such as cleaning your hands and cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.
- Talk to your Occupational Health Team if you think you were exposed to pertussis so they can monitor your health and decide if you need antibiotics to prevent infection.
  - **Facilitator note:** Discuss what your facility does if there is a suspected case of pertussis or a potential exposure.

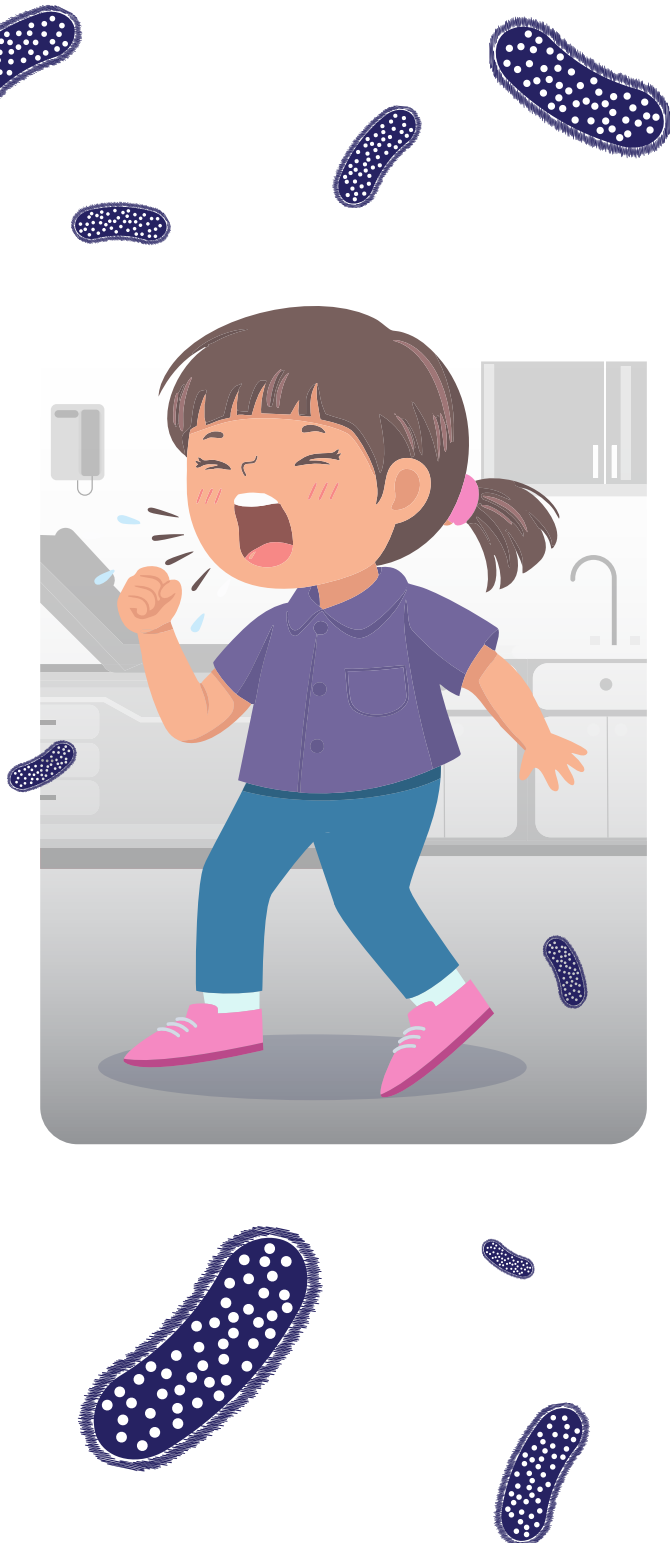
## Wrap up and reinforce

- Every healthcare worker plays a role in recognizing pertussis and preventing its spread in healthcare settings.
  - **Facilitator note:** Connect content with facility-specific information relevant to your team and share follow-up opportunities.

# Stop the Spread of Pertussis in Health Care



Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a very contagious respiratory illness that can lead to severe illness and even death.



## Identify the Risk of Pertussis

- Watch for people who have symptoms like:
  - coughing fits that cause vomiting
  - a high-pitched whooping sound when breathing in
  - struggling to breathe
  - in infants, pauses in breathing or skin turning blue

## Stop the Spread of Pertussis

- Provide patients who have symptoms of a respiratory infection with a facemask and separate them from others when possible.
- Put on a facemask before entering the room of a patient with suspected pertussis.
- Use additional personal protective equipment (PPE) if you think you might come in contact with blood or body fluids.
- Continue the infection control actions you use for every patient such as cleaning your hands and cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.
- Talk to your doctor about getting vaccinated against pertussis if you are not up to date on your pertussis vaccine.
- Tell your care team or supervisor if you notice someone at work with pertussis symptoms.
- Talk to your Occupational Health Team if you think you were exposed to pertussis.