



**SD PROJECT
FIRSTLINE**

CDC's National Training Collaborative
for Healthcare Infection Prevention & Control



March 2023 Newsletter

Germs Live on the Skin

Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients.

Where are the Risks?

- 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 the Skin

- Staphylococcus aureus (staph, including MRSA)
- Streptococcus (strep)
- Candida (including C. auris)

Healthcare Tasks Involving Skin

- Anything that involves touch
- Needlesticks
- Surgery

Infection Control Action to Reduce Risk

- Hand hygiene
- Appropriate glove use
- Injection safety
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Source control (covering cuts and wounds)

**HEALTHCARE
WORKERS**



**Scan for FREE
educational videos:**



**Learn how to prevent
the spread of infections
with CDC infection control
trainings, posters, and
resources.**



**PROJECT
FIRSTLINE**

CDC's National Training Collaborative
for Healthcare Infection Prevention & Control

sdprojectfirstline.org



Office Hours Call Link:

Join us! Office hours are the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am CST. Each month we focus on an Infection Prevention tip. *Learn, share, network!*

The **South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care** is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Join here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89402993770?pwd=NkVyMVQwVEdjQlR0N0FIMFhmckZwUT09#success>