

# PROJECT FIRSTLINE EXPANDS TO REACH YOUNGER AUDIENCES

## OUR HEALTHCARE WORKERS ARE THE STATE'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

against infectious diseases like COVID-19 and influenza. That's why the *South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care* partnered with the *South Dakota Department of Health* to launch *South Dakota Project Firstline* (SD PFL). Project Firstline is a CDC-led infection control training collaborative aimed at empowering South Dakota's workforce with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves, their patients, and the community from disease threats. Project Firstline resources are designed to help every healthcare worker build a foundational understanding of infection prevention, and give them the confidence to use it every day.

While the project provides resources for all healthcare professionals, the PFL team is making a special effort to reach the next generation of healthcare workers, such as high school or college students, which requires innovative ideas and approaches.

## AS PART OF REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEALTHCARE,

SD Project Firstline has engaged with HOSA-Future Health Professionals, a student-led health organization. "I am excited to be a part of the Project Firstline team, which provides infection prevention education in South Dakota," shares Stephanie Popowski-Dahl, new program manager for Project Firstline. "Talking and presenting with potential healthcare workers of our future was so exciting at our recent HOSA presentation! These young professionals could have a *long-lasting impact* on the quality of care given to patients around South Dakota."

Recognizing the need for online resources, SD Project Firstline launched a new website: [www.sdprojectfirstline.org](http://www.sdprojectfirstline.org). It offers interactive infection control resources and eight online CDC training modules.

Infection prevention doesn't stop with our healthcare workers. There are **SIMPLE THINGS WE CAN ALL DO** – wash hands often, cover your cough, stay home if sick, and clean frequently touched surfaces at home/office. Doing these things helps to prevent ANY infectious disease.



*It is amazing to think of how far the reach of SD Project Firstline will go!*

*- Stephanie Popowski-Dahl*

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 National Infection Control Center  
for Healthcare Worker Infection Control

[sdprojectfirstline.org](http://sdprojectfirstline.org)



SOUTH DAKOTA  
Foundation for Medical Care

We are here,  
there, everywhere.

[sdfmc.org](http://sdfmc.org) | [info@sdfmc.org](mailto:info@sdfmc.org)