



**SD PROJECT  
FIRSTLINE**

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



April  
2023

Newsletter

## Germs Live in Water and on Wet Surfaces

Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients.

### Where are the Risks?

- Tap water is safe to drink, but it is not sterile. It always has some germs in it.
- Most of the time, the germs in tap water aren't a problem for healthy people, but they can cause illness in patients with very weak immune systems.
- Germs in water can spread to surfaces and people and cause harm.
- If medical instruments and equipment (e.g., devices and central lines) get wet, bacteria can grow. When those devices are used, that bacteria can then get into a patient's body or blood and cause infection.

### Germs that Live in Water

- Acinetobacter
- Serratia
- Pseudomonas
- Legionella

### Healthcare Tasks Involving Water

- Toileting
- Cleaning
- Handwashing

### Infection Control Action to Reduce Risk

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Device sterilization
- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, eye protection)

**HEALTHCARE  
WORKERS**



Scan for **FREE**  
educational videos:



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



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



### Office Hours Call Link:

**Join us!** Office hours are the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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=NkVyMVQwVFdjQlRON0FIMFhmckZwUT09#success>