



July Newsletter 2024



Germs Can Live on Devices

Know where germs live to stop the spread and protect patients

Guidance for Healthcare Professionals: [Germs can live on devices](#)

PFL Social Media Video: [Did you know? Germs Can Live on Devices - YouTube](#)

Germs That Can Live on Devices

- *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph, including MRSA)
- *Streptococcus* (strep)
- *Candida* (including *C. auris*)
- Gut bacteria like *E. coli*, *Klebsiella*, and *C. difficile* (*C. diff*)

When a device, like a pulse oximeter, is used on a patient's body to provide care, any germs on that device can be spread to places in or on the patient's body.

Healthcare Tasks Involving Devices

- Taking Vital Signs
- Weighing patients
- Transporting patients
- Lifting patients

If not handled correctly, shared medical devices can spread germs from one patient to another.

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Cleaning and disinfection; remember cleaning and disinfection can occur at the same time, but disinfection **never occurs before cleaning**.
- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (gloves). Using PPE does not take the place of proper hand hygiene!

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 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am CST. Each month we focus on Infection Prevention tips. *Learn, share, network!*

Join the **South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care** scheduled Zoom meeting for August's Office Hours, Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZErcyggqTotHdwQpfrjApSA-nQwCd5oe99P>