



SD PROJECT
FIRSTLINE

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



March 2024 Newsletter

Project Firstline Offers **Micro-Learns** to help Stop the Spread of Germs in Healthcare

Micro-learns are a series of guided discussions that connect infection control concepts to immediate, practical value, so healthcare workers can recognize infection risks and take action to stop the spread of germs. They are short, adaptable and can easily be used in your facility to train and educate staff.

March's Micro-Learn "**Diarrhea**"

Diarrhea is liquid stool. All stool is full of germs. Diarrhea can be caused by a lot of things, but it is sometimes a sign of a pathogen that can cause illness, even in healthy people. Infections that cause diarrhea spread because germs move easily between hands, equipment, and surfaces in health care. Some of these germs can be difficult to kill. Common examples of infections that cause diarrhea include C. difficile, norovirus, and rotavirus (especially in children).

Assume that diarrhea is infectious. Use gloves when you're working with a patient who has diarrhea or in their environment. You might also need a gown if there's a risk you could get stool on your clothes. Clean your hands immediately after interacting with the patient or their environment, and immediately after taking off your gloves. You can use either hand sanitizer or soap and water, but if your hands are visibly dirty, then soap and water is preferred.

Diarrhea can be caused by an infection, but it is always full of germs. Use gloves when you're working with the patient and in their environment and clean your hands immediately afterwards.

Discuss with staff: What do you do when you see blood? Do you worry about catching something? Do you have all the tools you need? How can we do better as a team?

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WORKERS**



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Office Hours Call Link:

Join us! Office hours are the 2nd Wednesdays 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>