

Topic: Outbreak Management

Tools and Resources

CDC Project Firstline Resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/index.html>

CDC Project Firstline Resources—Spanish: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/es/resources/spanish.html>

CDC Project Firstline Resources - Bengali, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Hmong, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Tongan, and Samoan: <https://www.aanhpiprojectfirstline.org/>

Recognize Infection Risks in Healthcare: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/healthcare/recognize-risks.html>

Infection Prevention Essentials Webinar Series Registration: <https://web.cvent.com/event/d1aa7450-181e-4764-89b8-22a584727d90/summary?RefId=13Sept22thru27Oct22ProjectFirstline>

Chicago Department of Public Health: <https://www.chicagohan.org/en/web/han/hai/pfi>



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Project Firstline initiative aims to provide infection prevention and control training for front-line healthcare workers by supporting their efforts to understand and confidently apply the principles necessary to protect themselves, their facility, and their community from infectious disease threats.

Upcoming Webinar Series

[Join us](#) for an upcoming webinar series that launches Sept 13 to learn about [Infection Prevention Essentials](#). You can register and find additional information [here](#)! Nursing continuing education credits will be offered for each session.

Outbreaks

Outbreaks are sudden increases in the number of disease cases, above what is normally expected, in a limited geographic area. Many times, those sudden increases happen within a healthcare facility, like a hospital or nursing home.

Recognizing an outbreak is essential to prevent further spread of a disease. Early recognition helps ensure that a facility can respond quickly and implement additional infection control strategies to prevent additional patients, healthcare workers and community members from getting sick. Once an outbreak is recognized, public health officials will also launch an outbreak investigation to learn how to prevent something similar from happening in the future. Depending on the type of outbreak, healthcare facilities should work with local or state health departments for additional support with an outbreak investigation.

Outbreak Investigations

If you suspect an outbreak in your facility, it is important to notify your infection prevention experts and work with them to develop a plan.

The purpose of an outbreak investigation is to determine if an outbreak is ongoing (whether or not new infections are being detected) or if it has already occurred (new cases are not being identified). For ongoing outbreaks, your infection prevention experts will review the information obtained in the investigation to identify what types infection control practices to implement immediately to reduce the number of new cases and prevent future outbreaks of a similar nature. If an outbreak has already occurred, your facility's infection prevention experts will review the cases to identify what might have contributed to the outbreak. These findings could include things like shared equipment not being cleaned or disinfected properly, inadequate hand hygiene, failure to wear personal protective equipment correctly, or contaminated medications.

Prevent Germs from Spreading

Having good infection control practices in place can help prevent germs from spreading and contribute to the end of an outbreak. Those practices include:

- 1) Adherence to hand hygiene practices
- 2) Correct and appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- 3) Frequent cleaning and disinfection of areas in the facility.

*Please reach out to
InfectionPrevention@team-iha.org
if you have any questions or comments.*