



Topic: Source Control

TOOLS & RESOURCES

Project Firstline Video: [Episode 23: What is Source Control?](#)

Respiratory Protection vs. Source Control: <https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2020/09/08/source-control/>

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.aanhprojectfirstline.org/>

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



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Project Firstline initiative aims to provide infection prevention and control training for frontline 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.

Source Control

Source control is an important tool to stop germs at their source and keep them from spreading to others. Source control isn't just used for respiratory illnesses, but for other diseases as well.

Source control stops germs at their source, examples of source control include:

- 1) Bandaging a wound
- 2) Covering a rash
- 3) Wearing well fitted masks
- 4) Removing devices like urinary catheters or central lines when an infection is suspected
- 5) Performing surgical procedures, like incision and drainage or wound debridement, to prevent the spread of infection
- 6) Frequent hand hygiene
- 7) Vaccination

Source Control and Respiratory Disease

For respiratory diseases, source control focuses on wearing a mask to keep the respiratory droplets we breathe out, out of the air and away from other people. A well-fitted cloth mask, facemask, or respirator is used to cover a person's mouth and nose to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets when they are breathing, talking, sneezing or coughing. This is important because oftentimes people are unaware that they have been infected with a respiratory disease, and can spread the disease to others without knowing it.

Respiratory Protection vs. Source Control

We hear a lot about source control and respiratory protection in healthcare. Let's define these terms so we understand the differences.

Source Control: Wearing masks or other personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent the spread of infection from the person wearing the source control.

Respiratory Protection: PPE that is worn to prevent the wearer from breathing in air that contains contaminants and can make them sick.

Both of these are key infection prevention strategies to help stop the spread of respiratory droplets.

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