

# TOPIC 12: Environmental Cleaning & Disinfection: Why do cleaning and disinfection matter?



# Agenda

- Welcome
- Cleaning and Disinfection: What is the Difference?
- Why Cleaning and Disinfection Matter
- Reflection

# Learning Objectives

- Describe the difference between cleaning and disinfection.
- Why do cleaning and disinfection matter in healthcare?

# Cleaning and Disinfection: What is the Difference?

# INSIDE INFECTION CONTROL

## CLEANING? DISINFECTION? WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

EPISODE 16



# Definitions

## **Cleaning**

Cleaning is a process that removes things like dust, dirt, grime, and other spills, smears, and everyday messes from surfaces, along with some germs.

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## **Disinfection**

Disinfection is a process that kills germs.

# Why cleaning and disinfection Matter

# Patients may have weakened immune systems

**In healthcare, we have patients who are ill or weak.**

**Why does that matter?**

Germs are more likely to cause problems in these patients, because their immune defenses may not be the same as someone who is healthy and living at home.



# The healthcare environment should be kept clean

**It is important to keep the healthcare environment clean to stop germs from spreading.**

## **Where and When?**

- Patient Rooms
- High-touch Surfaces
  - Bed rails
  - Keyboards
  - Light switches
- Surfaces and objects that often have a lot of germs on them
  - Toilet seats

**Reflection:**  
**What did you learn today?**

# Key Takeaways

- **Cleaning removes visible dirt**, dust, spills, smears, and grime, including organic material like blood, as well as some germs, from surfaces. It's important to clean before disinfecting because dirt and grime can make disinfectants not work as well.
- **Disinfecting kill germs** on surfaces or objects.
- It is important to **keep the healthcare environment clean to stop the spread of germs.**

# Resources and Future Training sessions

## • Project Firstline Resources

Project Firstline on CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/projectfirstline/index.html>

Project Firstline on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CDCProjectFirstline/>

Twitter:

[https://twitter.com/CDC\\_Firstline](https://twitter.com/CDC_Firstline)

Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvvp9iOILTQZQGtDnSDGViKDdRtC15VX>

To sign up for Project Firstline e-mails, click here:

[https://tools.cdc.gov/campaignproxyservice/subscriptions.aspx?topic\\_id=USGDC\\_2104](https://tools.cdc.gov/campaignproxyservice/subscriptions.aspx?topic_id=USGDC_2104)

## • Other Resources

CDC's Environmental Cleaning Evaluation Tools:

[https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/prevention\\_tools.html#anchor\\_1561577385](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/prevention_tools.html#anchor_1561577385)

CDC's Reduce Risk from Surfaces:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/environment/surfaces.html>

EPA's Six Steps for Safe & Effective Disinfectant Use:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-04/documents/disinfectants-onepager.pdf>

EPA's List N Tool:

<https://cfpub.epa.gov/giwiz/disinfectants/index.cfm>

About List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus (COVID-19):

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/about-list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19-0>

Selected EPA-Registered Disinfectants:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants>

List N - Infographic Which disinfectants kill COVID-19?:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-12/documents/list\\_n\\_how-to\\_infographic\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-12/documents/list_n_how-to_infographic_final_0.pdf)

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