Infection Control Micro-Learns
User Guide

About the Micro-Learns:

The Project Firstline *Infection Control Micro-Learns* are a series of **guided infection control discussions that provide brief, on-the-job educational opportunities**. Each micro-learn focuses on a single infection control topic and connects infection control concepts to immediate, practical value. Healthcare workers can easily apply the key points to their daily work and perform the recommended actions to keep germs from spreading.

Using the Micro-Learns:

The micro-learns can be **incorporated into existing opportunities where groups of healthcare workers gather**, such as pre-shift "huddles" or team meetings. The sessions should be led or facilitated by an experienced team member with infection control expertise.

Each micro-learn package includes an adaptable discussion guide for the facilitator and one job aid.

Discussion Guide: The discussion guide is not a script. Facilitators are encouraged to **adapt the guide for the audience** by incorporating relevant and practical questions and ideas. For instance, facilitators can connect the content to the audience's job duties, facility-specific cases or issues, resources and points of contact, or other information.

Job Aid: The one-page, visual job aid helps to **reinforce the key messages of the micro-learn**. Facilitators are encouraged to make the job aid available after the micro learn session, such as in digital or hard copy form.

Notes for Facilitators:

- Before presenting a micro-learn, **check the policies and protocols at your facility** and adapt the content accordingly.
- Build on your knowledge, experience, and awareness to **connect the content to local context or relevant recent events** so that your audience can apply the concepts confidently.
- The micro-learns **reinforce infection control concepts** when risks are observed **in patients or in the patient environment**, not necessarily in visitors or other staff members.
- Remind your audience that if they see a patient in distress—e.g., with shortness of breath, bleeding, or otherwise at risk of immediate harm—they should **respond to the emergency according to facility protocols**.

www.cdc.gov/ProjectFirstline

Ice Micro-Learn Discussion Guide:

Think Twice About Ice

Use the talking points below and accompanying job aid to engage your team in a short, focused discussion. Adapt to meet your needs.

1. Introduce the Topic

Share key information about the topic that your audience should **know and connect to your local context:**

- Harmful germs can live in ice and on equipment that touches ice.
- When ice is used in health care, those germs can spread and cause infections in your patients.
    - Facilitator Note: Discuss examples of how ice is used in your work and can possibly spread germs (e.g., for drinks, during medical procedures).

2. Expand on the Topic

Share information about what your audience should **do**:

- Ice made from tap water is usually safe to eat and drink, but it can contain germs that are risky in certain situations or for certain patients (e.g., ice used during surgery, ice used for patients with weakened immune systems).
- Germs can also live and grow on equipment such as ice machines, ice scoops, pitchers, and ice packs.
    - We need to make sure that germs from the ice or equipment associated with ice doesn't harm patients.

3. Discuss with Your Team

Find out how your audience feels about the topic. Sample questions include:

- What actions can we take to keep germs from spreading when using ice?
    - Always clean your hands before handling ice.
    - Ice and the ice machine should only be touched by clean hands and clean equipment.
        - Don't let dirty items such as used ice packs touch the ice or ice machine outlet.
    - Use a clean scoop to get ice and store it in a clean area outside the ice chest or cooler.
    - Use a clean, disposable cup to fill ice packs instead of filling directly from the ice machine.
    - Ice chests and machines should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
        - Facilitator Note: Discuss who to contact if an ice machine needs cleaning or maintenance.

4. Wrap Up and Reinforce

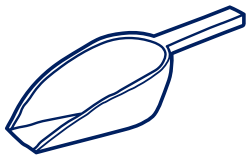
Share related facility-specific information and cue to follow-up opportunities:

- Ice and ice equipment can spread harmful germs in healthcare settings, but they don't have to. You can stop the spread by being aware of the risks of water in healthcare settings and taking action to prevent infections.
    - Facilitator Note: Share facility protocols that may be useful for your team and other opportunities for education. Share contact information for people or groups your team can contact to report issues.

Think Twice About Ice!

Keep your patients safe when using ice:

Always clean your hands before dispensing ice.



Use a clean container or scoop to get ice and store this equipment in a clean, designated area outside the ice chest or machine.

Ice chests and machines should be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Learn More

Reduce Risk from Water: https://bit.ly/3R7nmEi Germs Live in Water

Infographic: https://bit.ly/3UYQte6