



PA Project Firstline Newsletter

Winter 2023-24

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Request a PFL Training

PA Project Firstline provides free in-person or virtual training on various Infection Prevention and Control Topics for all types of healthcare facilities and frontline healthcare workers.

FEATURED: Escape Room Training



The escape room is a live, interactive training where teams of 4-5 people will work together for 30

minutes to navigate Clutterbug's clever traps and help unite with Captain Germ-B-Gone to proclaim victory. Four stations cover hand hygiene, source control, cleaning and disinfection, and personal protective equipment (PPE) and reinforce specific infection prevention and control objectives.

Check out list of training topics and request training for your facility:

[Access form here](#)

OR

Scan the QR Code Below



"Stay informed, stay protected, and join Project Firstline in the fight against respiratory illnesses."

CDC's Fall and Winter Respiratory Disease Season Outlook for 2023

Respiratory viruses like flu, RSV, and COVID-19 pose a continuous challenge to healthcare facilities. As we prepare for the upcoming respiratory disease season, the CDC's outlook serves as a valuable guide. It highlights the importance of vaccination and adhering to public health guidelines as we work together to mitigate the impact of these diseases.

The key takeaways:

- **Hospitalizations:** CDC anticipates hospitalizations for respiratory diseases will be similar to last year (and higher than pre-pandemic levels).
- **COVID-19:** A moderate COVID-19 wave is expected.
- **Influenza:** Influenza season expected to be of typical severity.
- **Respiratory Syncytial Virus:** RSV is likely to follow normal patterns after a severe season last year.
- **Uncertainties:** The size and timing of peak activity for each disease and its overlapping, impact of potential new COVID-19 variants, uncertainty about predominant influenza viruses and vaccine effectiveness and limited data on RSV burden.
- **Vaccination:** Remains the primary means to protect against severe outcomes from respiratory diseases. Vaccines for all three major respiratory viruses will be available.

For more information, visit [Respiratory Disease Season Outlook \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory/disease-season-outlook/).

Check out [Pennsylvania Respiratory Virus Activity at 2023-24 respiratory virus dashboard \(pa.gov\)](https://www.pa.gov/health/respiratory-virus-activity).

NEW Project Firstline Micro-learn Training Tools:

The 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.



Blood Micro-Learn



Rash Micro-Learn



Cough and Congestion Micro-Learn



Draining Wound Micro-Learn

Contact Us

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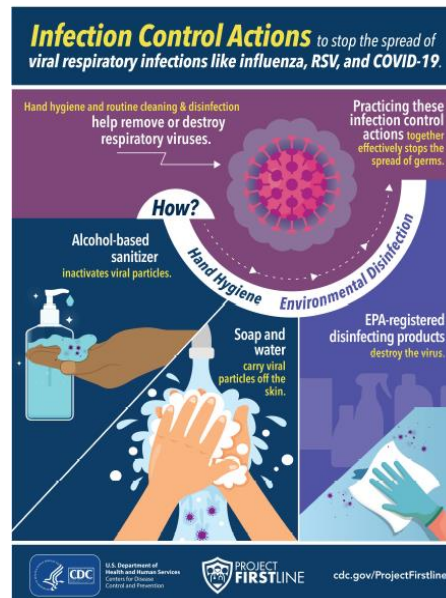
Essential infection control measures recommended by CDC Project Firstline to mitigate the spread of respiratory infections.



Use of well-fitting **masks or respirators** by healthcare workers, patients, residents, and visitors helps decrease the spread of respiratory viruses.

Emphasize **physical distancing** in shared spaces, using signs and triage stations to screen for respiratory symptoms.

Advocate for **respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette**. Provide masks, tissues, and no-touch receptacles for tissue disposal in key area.



Regular **hand washing & cleaning** with sanitizer or soap and water is vital to halt germ spread.

Routine **environmental cleaning** using recommended disinfectant in high-traffic zones and reusable devices are essential.

Ensure that your facility's **ventilation or HVAC system** functions efficiently.

Promote **recommended vaccinations** among everyone in your facility to reduce the risk of respiratory disease transmission and staff absenteeism.

For more information, visit [Infection Control Actions for Respiratory Viruses | Project Firstline | CDC](#)