



PA Project Firstline Newsletter

Winter 2022

Volume 2, Number 2

In This Issue

- Respiratory Viruses: Alike but Different
- Frontline Healthcare Worker Survey
- Learn to Lead
- EVS Frontline Staff Educational Videos
- Contact Us

Frontline Healthcare Worker Survey



PA Project Firstline (PFL) is distributing an online survey to frontline healthcare

workers. The survey will assess healthcare worker literacy in infection prevention and control and identify training gaps. The PA Project Firstline team will develop training to address the identified gaps. To help inform PFL what your learning needs are, please scan the QR code above with your phone or click this link to complete the survey.

Respiratory Viruses: Alike but Different



It's winter, and along with all the other joys of the season come respiratory viruses. In a post-COVID-19 world, it can be easy to assume that any respiratory virus is COVID-19, but the reality is that many respiratory viruses can be in circulation at the same time. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a coronavirus first identified in 2019. Flu is caused by infection with a flu virus. A cold can be caused by several different viruses including rhinoviruses, parainfluenza, and seasonal coronaviruses. Seasonal coronaviruses should not be confused with SARS-COV-2, the virus that causes [COVID-19](#).

Because flu and the common cold have similar symptoms, it can be difficult to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. In general, flu is worse than the common cold, and symptoms are typically more intense and begin more abruptly. Colds are usually milder than flu. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose than people who have flu. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems, such as pneumonia,

EVS Frontline Staff Educational Videos

The Association for the Health Care Environment (AHE), a Project Firstline Partner, has created a new series of educational videos highlighting the role EVS technicians play in preventing infections and creating a contamination-free environment. The videos cover:

- The Frontline of Infection Prevention and Control
- Cleaning Occupied and Discharged Patient Rooms
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Operating and Procedure Rooms
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Ambulatory Care Centers, Physician Offices, and Clinics

The videos are free, but there is a form you will need to fill out prior to accessing the videos. Find all four videos [here!](#)



Contact Us

PA Project Firstline

Pennsylvania Department of Health –
Bureau of Epidemiology

Room 933, Health & Welfare Building
625 Forster Street

Harrisburg, PA 17120-0701

RA-DHFIRSTLINE@pa.gov

bacterial infections, or hospitalizations. However, flu and COVID-19 can both have serious complications.

You can check out some more of the similarities and differences between flu and COVID-19 at the CDC reference linked [here](#). Remember – you can protect yourself from both flu and COVID-19 by staying up to date with vaccinations. No matter what type of respiratory symptoms you have, it is better to stay home when you feel ill.

Learn to Lead

Did you know that in addition to providing content, CDC Project Firstline has a facilitator toolkit available to help you lead infection control trainings with maximum impact?



The facilitator toolkit is designed to work with your team's learning styles and busy schedules. The toolkit offers resources and strategies to support your role as a facilitator for Project Firstline training sessions. Whether you have an hour, 20 minutes, or even 10 minutes, you can deliver a training that helps keep your staff performing best practices for infection prevention and control. You don't need to be an infection control expert to lead these trainings. The resources in this toolkit will help you along the way. To access the CDC Project Firstline facilitator toolkit, click the icon below.

