RECOGNIZING AND REDUCING RISKS TO HEALTHCARE WORKERS DURING THE SCREENING & TREATMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

SPEAKER AND OBJECTIVES

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Learning Objectives

1. Be able to identify clinician risks when testing patients for STI.
2. Identify which infection control practices would be utilized to mitigate or eliminate those risks.

RECOGNIZING AND REDUCING RISKS

"Risk recognition is seeing the potential for a problem to happen." – CDC Project Firstline

Common Reservoirs in Health Care *Places where germs live*

On or in the body

- Skin
- Gut
- Respiratory tract
- Blood

Environment

- Wet Surfaces
- Dry Surfaces
- Dirt and Dust
- Devices

Common Pathways in Health Care *Ways germs get from one place to another*

- Through touch
- By being breathed in
- Through splashes and sprays
  - Water
  - Body fluid
- By bypassing/breaking down the body's natural defenses
  - For example, through procedures or surgeries

RECOGNIZING RISKS FROM PATIENTS

- Organisms can live in the gut, respiratory tract, blood and, on the skin.
  - When testing for STI keep in mind there are also organisms that live in the mucous membranes.
- Transmission can happen when your skin or mucus membranes contact organisms.
- Transmission can be facilitated by contamination of your shoes & clothing.

UTILIZE STANDARD PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

1. Hand hygiene.
2. Use of personal protective equipment
   - Masks, gloves, eye protection, gowns
3. Respiratory hygiene / cough etiquette
   - Utilize face masks for droplet precautions, respirators for airborne precautions
4. Sharps safety (engineering and work practice controls)
   - Safety devices, no recapping of needles
5. Safe injection practices
   - Aseptic technique for parenteral medications**
6. Sterile instruments and devices
   - Utilize Spalding Classification for cleaning equipment
7. Clean and disinfected environmental surfaces
   - 2 step cleaning, appropriate chemicals, UV treatment

RECOGNIZING RISKS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT

1. Water and wet surfaces
2. Dry surfaces
3. Devices
4. Dirt/dust

Tap water is NOT sterile water
there are aways some germs in it

Wet instruments and equipment can grow bacteria

- Acinetobacter
- Serratia
- Pseudomonas
- Legionella

- ✓ **Cleaning and disinfection**
- ✓ **Device Sterilization**
- ✓ **Hand Hygiene**
- ✓ **Use PPE**





Germs from the air, the body and in stool can often be found on dry surfaces

- Can live on surfaces for a long time
  - *Clostridioides difficile*
  - *Norovirus*
  - *Candida (C. auris)*
  - *Rotavirus*

High-touch surfaces

- Bed Rails, light switches, door handles

Hands pick up germs from surfaces & transfer to other surfaces or people

Devices can be contaminated from contaminated hands

- ✓ **Cleaning and disinfection**
- ✓ **Device sterilization**
- ✓ **Hand hygiene**
- ✓ **Use PPE**



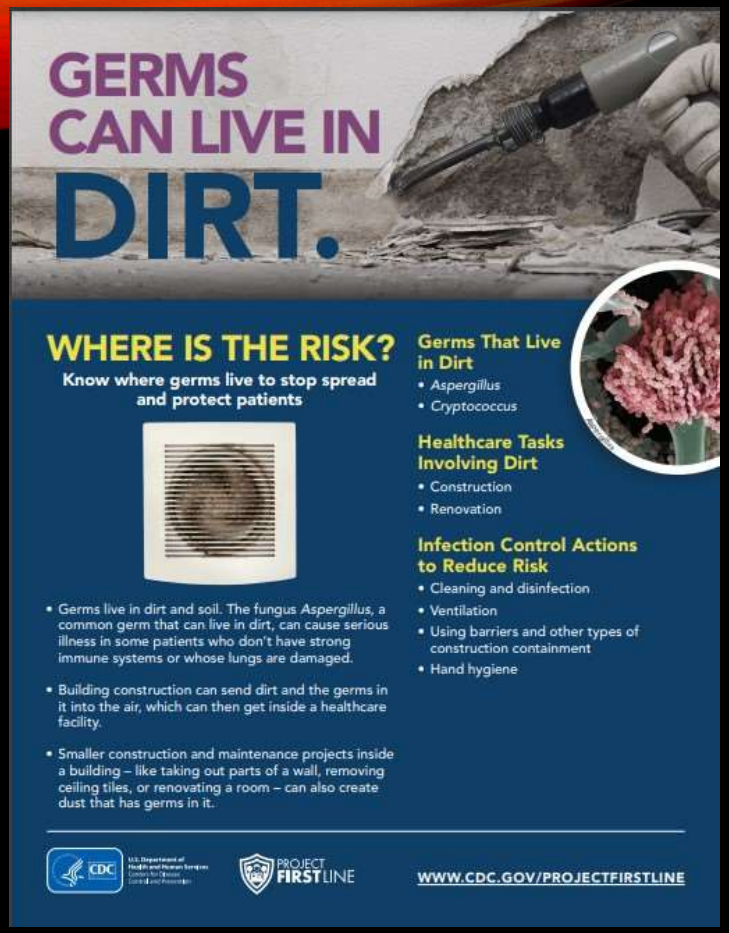
Germs from device (i.e., pulse oximeter) can be transferred to patients during care

- Critical and non-critical devices, shared devices
- IV starts, endoscopies, routine care

Germs that can live on devices

- *Staphylococcus aureus*
- *Streptococcus*
- *Candida*
- *Gut bacteria*

- ✓ **Cleaning & disinfection**
- ✓ **Device sterilization**
- ✓ **Hand hygiene**
- ✓ **Use PPE**



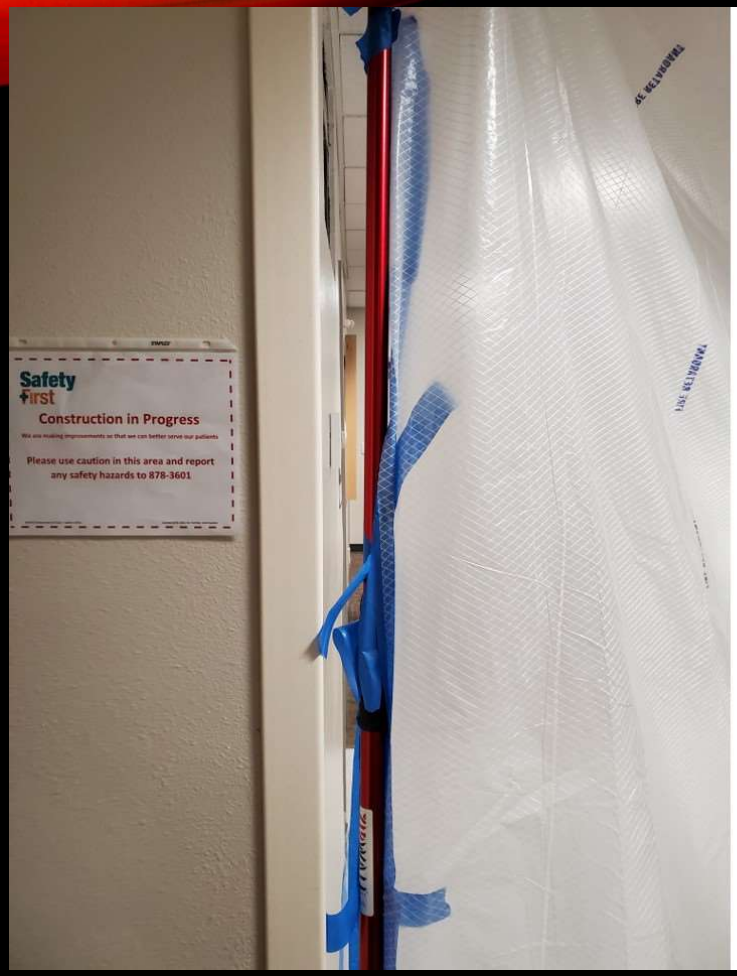
Building construction can release dirt and dust into environment
Germs can live in dirt/soil

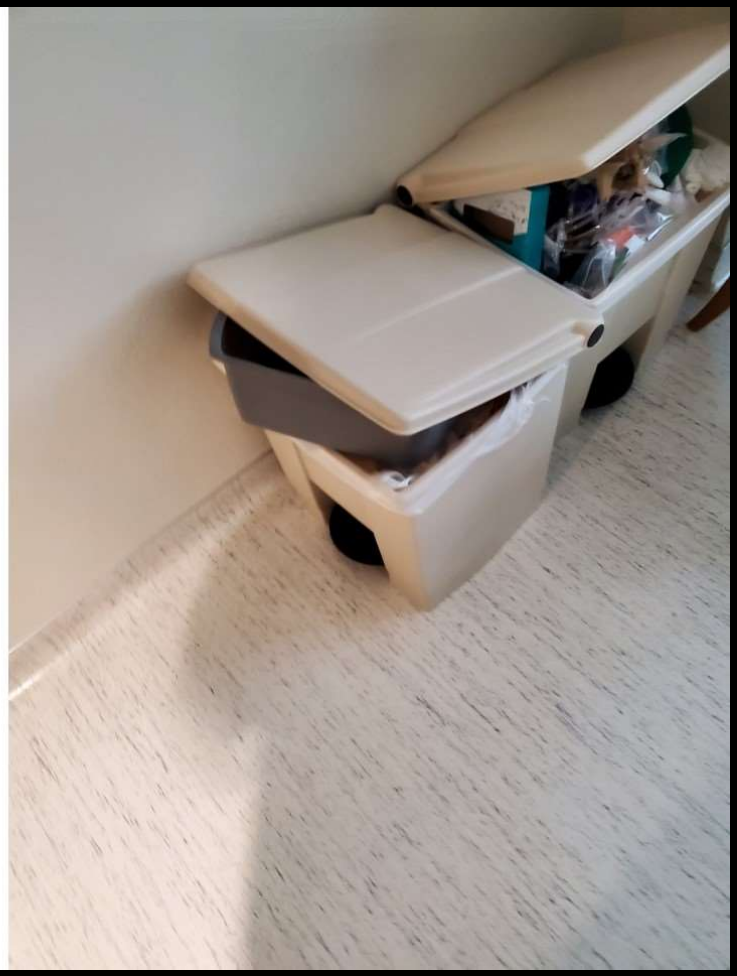
- *Aspergillus (fungus)*
- *Cryptococcus*

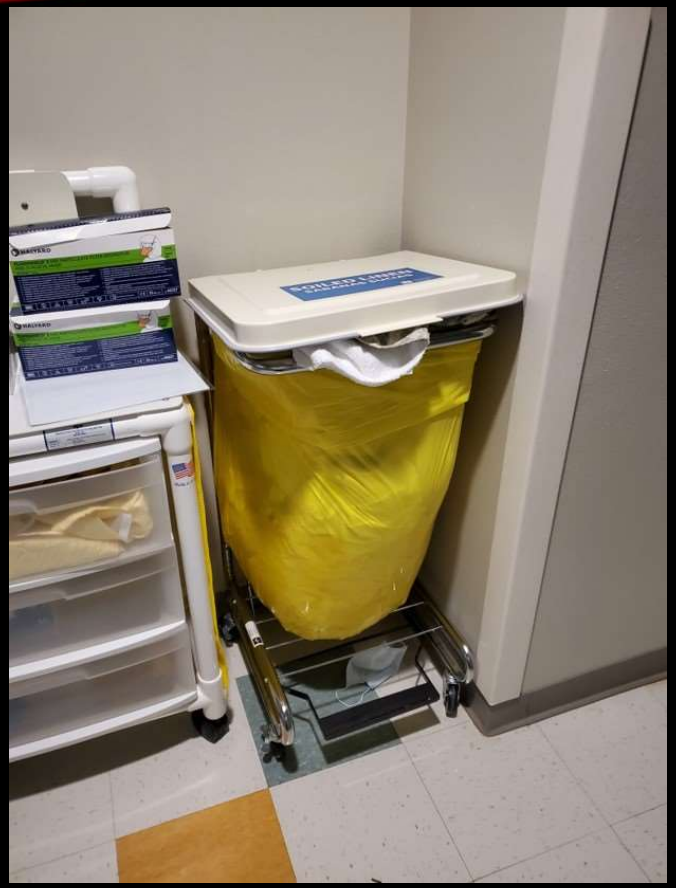
Size of project doesn't matter

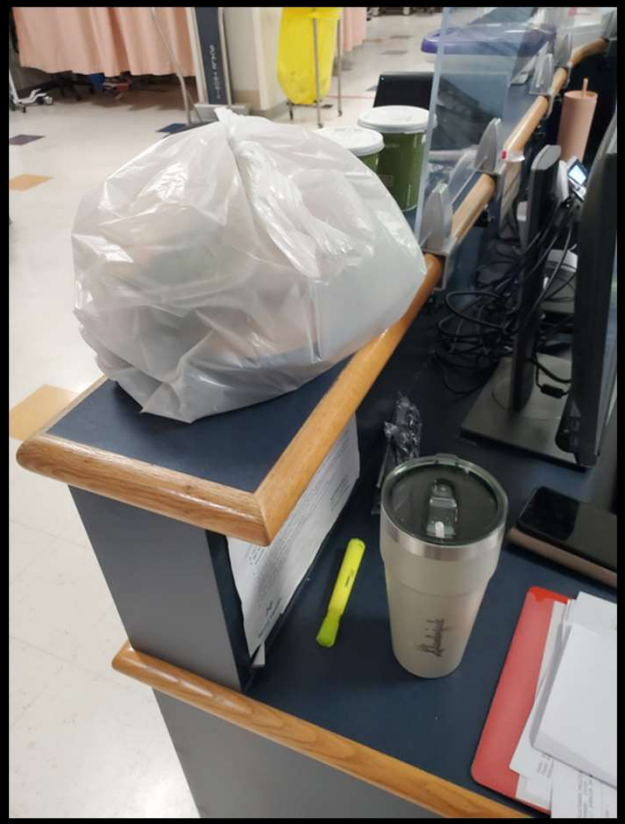


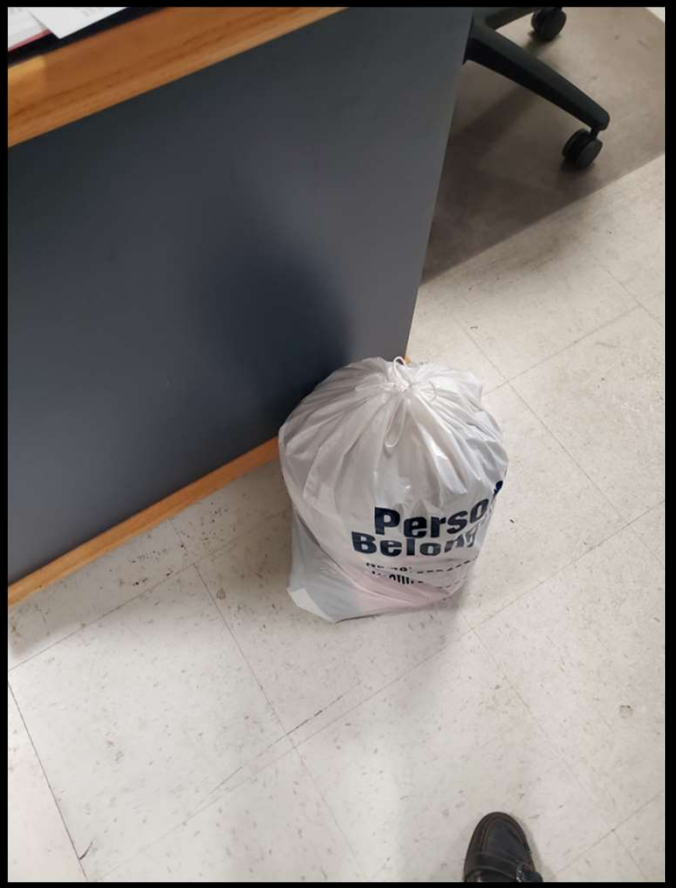
- ✓ **Cleaning and disinfection**
- ✓ **Ventilation**
- ✓ **Barriers & containment**
- ✓ **Hand Hygiene**
- ✓ **Use PPE**


Safety
First
Construction in Progress
We are making improvements so that we can better serve our patients
Please use caution in this area and report
any safety hazards to 878-3601









REMINDERS

- PPE only works if you use it!
- More is not necessarily better
- Exposure can happen even if you're only in the room "for a minute"
- WASH YOUR HANDS!
- Isolation guidelines: www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/isolation-guidelines-H.pdf
- Project Firstline provides infection control resources and training to keep patients & caregivers safe.



RESOURCES

https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/standard-precautions.html

https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/healthcare.html

CDC. Sexually transmitted diseases guidelines. MMWR Recom 2015;64(No. RR-3). https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6403a1.htm.