

Environmental Services (EVS) Education

Multidrug-Resistant Organisms (MDROs)

Why is EVS important to containment of MDROs?

MDROs can survive on surfaces for hours to months if those surfaces are not properly cleaned and disinfected.

Cleaning: physical removal of dirt, debris and visible soiling

Disinfection: killing microorganisms with a chemical agent

Creating policies and procedures to ensure a systematic approach

- Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection, particularly for high-touch surfaces (e.g., bed rails, call bells).
- Clean and disinfect reusable equipment (e.g., mop handles) after each use within precautions rooms and prior to returning tools to the EVS cart
- Utilize products effective against the pathogens present in a facility. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for use.
- Audit adherence to environmental cleaning policies.
- Consider designating EVS staff and/or carts to the units where MDROs are present.

Perform hand hygiene and don the PPE indicated by the precautions in place and the task being performed. Change gloves throughout the task and perform hand hygiene in-between glove changes.



Change cleaning cloths and PPE when transitioning between patient zones/beds within shared rooms



Clean from the least soiled to most soiled and from physically high to physically low areas. End around the patient bed.

Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectant to clean floors in critical areas such as isolation rooms.

Adhere to the contact time of each disinfectant to ensure the product is given enough time to adequately disinfect the surface being treated.

Contact time: the amount of time a disinfectant needs to sit on a surface, without being wiped away or disturbed, to effectively kill germs.

Change privacy curtains routinely, if they become soiled, and after the patient is discharged, transferred, or taken off of precautions.

If you have additional questions, please contact the New Jersey Department of Health HAI/AR Unit at: DOH.CDS.HAIAR.EPI@doh.nj.gov.

Adapted from Florida Department of Health

