

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. Health care 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 health care 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:

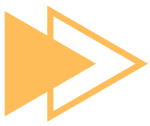
- **An adaptable discussion guide for the facilitator:** The discussion guide is not a script. Facilitators are encouraged to adapt the guide for their audience by including relevant and practical questions and ideas.
- **A job aid for the facilitator:** The visual job aid helps to reinforce the key 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 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.

“Optimizing Standards of Care” Micro-Learn Discussion Guide

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



INTRODUCE THE TOPIC

Share information about the topic that your audience should know:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has always been a core element of an effective infection control program.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us ways to work through PPE and staffing challenges by optimizing our standards of care.
- Conventional capacity: Strategies that should already be in place as part of general infection prevention and control plan.
- Contingency capacity: Strategies that can be used during periods of anticipated shortages (PPE, staffing or space).
- Crisis capacity: Strategies that can be used when supplies, staffing, or space cannot meet the facility's current or anticipated patient surge.



EXPAND THE TOPIC

Share additional information about what your audience should know on the job:

- **Surge** refers to the ability to manage a sudden increase in patient volume that would severely challenge or exceed the present capacity of a facility.
- The increased need for PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic caused PPE shortages, which posed a tremendous challenge to the U.S. health care system.

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DISCUSS WITH YOUR TEAM

Find out how your audience feels about the topic:

- How familiar are you with the terms Conventional, Contingency, and Crisis capacity as a health care worker?
- What does the term "standard of care" mean?
- Do you know who to talk to if your facility has a PPE supply shortage?
- Do you know where to locate your facility's Emergency Management Plan?
- How comfortable are you donning and doffing PPE?
- Do you know how to strategize care when working during a staffing or space shortage?



WRAP UP AND REINFORCE

Reinforce key takeaways:

- Each capacity level should only be implemented after considering and implementing the previous capacity strategies.
- To prolong contingency and avoid crisis, try to conserve, substitute, and adapt when it comes to supplies, staffing, and space in your facility.
- Build up a three-month supply of PPE items, if possible.
- When your facility is faced with space issues during contingency or crisis capacities, look to your local health department for more information about state-specific strategies.

How to Prepare for a PPE Shortage

1 Emergency Planning

Develop and become familiar with your facility Emergency Management Plan.



2 PPE Management

- Maintain PPE inventory.
- Keep a PPE tracking system.
- Rotate PPE supplies.
- Work with reliable vendors.



3 Staff Training and Education

- Donning and doffing of PPE
- When PPE is and is not necessary
- Vaccine importance
- Safe care during shortages



How to Transition Through Care and Supply Shortages



Health care providers remain obligated, at all times and under all circumstances, to provide the best possible care.

Implement conventional strategies followed by contingency strategies followed by crisis strategies.

CONVENTIONAL CAPACITY

Strategies that should already be in place as part of general infection prevention and control plan

CONTINGENCY CAPACITY

Strategies that can be used during periods of anticipated shortages (PPE, space or staff)

CRISIS CAPACITY

Strategies that can be used when supplies or staffing cannot meet the facilities current or anticipated surge

As PPE, space and staffing availability increases to meet needs, health care facilities should promptly resume standard **conventional practices.**