# Infection Prevention and Control Competencies for Environmental Services Personnel

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<th>Cluster Area of Competency</th>
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### Basic Microbiology

#### 1. Describe the role of microorganisms in disease

- a. Describe the different types of microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, fungi, etc.), and their role in healthcare-associated infections.
- b. Describe antimicrobial resistance and its importance in healthcare associated infections.

### Modes/mechanisms of infection/disease transmission

#### 2. Describe how microorganisms are transmitted in healthcare settings

- a. Identify the links in the chain of infection.
- b. Differentiate between transmission routes of microorganisms in the healthcare setting (e.g., airborne, contact, droplet).
- c. Describe the role the environment plays in microorganism transmission in healthcare settings.
- d. Apply principles of asepsis (e.g., clean vs. dirty tasks, sterile vs. non-sterile procedures).
- e. Distinguish between clean, disinfected and sterile patient care items.
- f. Describe the difference between a product that cleans and one that disinfects.

### Standard and transmission-based precautions

#### 3. Demonstrate standard and transmission-based precautions for all patient contact in healthcare settings

- a. Describe the principles of standard precautions.
- b. Demonstrate proper hand hygiene.
- c. Describe appropriate use of hand hygiene products (soap and water, antimicrobial soap, surgical scrub, waterless alcohol agent) and when to use each.
- d. Describe the categories of transmission-based precautions and when to initiate the preventive activities of each category.
- e. Demonstrate how to verify negative pressure function of a patient environment.
- f. Describe appropriate patient placement (e.g., room type, cohorting) relative to the category of transmission-based precautions.
- g. Describe appropriate interventions required during patient transport relative to the category of transmission-based precautions.
- h. List the appropriate personal protective equipment items for each category of transmission-based precautions.
- i. Demonstrate how to put on and take off personal protective equipment.
- j. Demonstrate fit check (user seal check) of NIOSH approved respirator.
- k. Describe appropriate disposal of personal protective equipment.
- l. Describe the signs, symptoms and diagnoses that would alert a healthcare worker to initiate transmission-based precautions (e.g., fever with cough, fever with skin rash/lesion, fever with other respiratory symptoms, gastrointestinal symptoms).
### Occupational Health

#### 4. Describe occupational health practices that protect the healthcare worker from acquiring infection

- a. Demonstrate safe handling and disposal of sharps.
- b. Demonstrate appropriate use of safety devices.
- c. Explain methods to safely handle blood and body fluids to prevent exposure.
- d. Describe the first aid for cut/puncture exposures, or fluid exposures to the eyes, nose or mouth.
- e. Articulate the process for reporting blood/body fluid exposure in the workplace.
- f. Describe appropriate disposal of items soaked/saturated with blood/body fluids or other potentially infectious materials.
- g. Describe regulated waste versus general trash and the appropriate disposal of each

### Patient Safety

#### 5. Describe occupational health practices that prevent the healthcare worker from transmitting infection to a patient

- a. Describe work practices that reduce the risk of infection transmission (e.g., immunization, not coming to work sick, hand hygiene).
- b. Explain the importance of healthcare worker participation in immunization programs.
- c. Describe how a staff member with an infectious condition can pose a risk to other healthcare worker, patients, and visitors.
- d. Describe signs, symptoms and diagnoses that require absence from work or work restrictions (e.g., fever with cough, fever with skin rash/lesion, fever with other respiratory symptoms, gastrointestinal symptoms).

### Critical Thinking

#### 6. Demonstrate ability to problem-solve and apply knowledge to recognize, contain, and prevent infection transmission

- a. Explain how to access infection control resources including policies and procedures.
- b. Discuss own role in infection prevention and control (e.g., recognizing unsafe activities, intervening when breaches in infection control are identified).
- c. Describe practice changes (e.g., altered standard of care) in the event of limited resources.

### Emergency Preparedness

#### 7. Describe the importance of healthcare preparedness for natural or man-made infectious disease disasters.

- a. Explain own role in the facility disaster plan.
- b. Demonstrate participation in facility drills and exercises.
- c. Describe practice changes (e.g., altered standard of care) in the event of limited resources.

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