

## In this issue

- Understanding Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions (TBP)
- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in Long Term Care (LTC)
- Request a Pennsylvania Project Firstline (PA PFL) Training
- Educational Resource: Wound care and IPC

## Request a PA PFL Training:

PA PFL provides free in-person or virtual training on IPC topics for all types of health care facilities and frontline health care personnel.

## FEATURED: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Escape Room Training



The EMS escape room is a live, interactive training where EMS providers work together to navigate Clutterbug's clever traps and prevent germ spread. Each session includes four stations covering hand hygiene, inter-facility communication, cleaning & disinfection, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to reinforce specific IPC objectives for EMS providers.

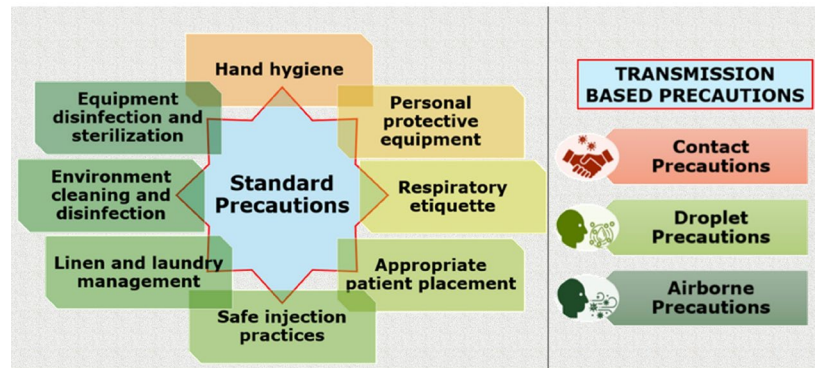
**Check out the list of training topics and request training for your facility:** [Access form here](#)

OR

Scan the QR code below.



## Understanding Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions (TBP)



**Standard precautions** are the essential actions used for all patient care, regardless of infection or colonization status, to prevent the spread of germs in health care settings. These include hand hygiene, personal protective equipment (PPE) use, respiratory etiquette, patient placement, safe injection practices, linen management, cleaning and disinfection, and safe handling of potentially contaminated equipment or surfaces.

**TBP** are IPC measures used *in addition* to standard precautions for patients with known or suspected infections that spread via contact, droplet, or airborne routes.

- **Contact precautions** are used to prevent the spread of germs that are transmitted through direct or indirect contact.
- **Droplet precautions** help prevent the spread of germs transmitted by large respiratory droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, or talking.
- **Airborne precautions** are essential for preventing the spread of germs that are transmitted by small particles suspended in the air.

For more information, visit:

- [Standard Precautions](#)
- [Transmission-Based Precautions](#)
- [Type and Duration of Precautions](#)

## Educational Resource: Wound care and IPC

The Division of Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention is excited to offer a new educational resource for health care professionals focusing on IPC practices in wound care. A 50-minute instructional video, **Demonstrating Wound Care and the Clinician's Role in Preventing Wound Colonization and Infection**, provides a step-by-step demonstration of best practices in IPC during wound care. This training aims to enhance clinicians' awareness of wound colonization and infection, ensuring the use of proper techniques for safe and effective wound care.

The video is available on **TRAIN PA** under **Course ID: 1125056**

- Log into your TRAIN PA account or create a new one.
- Once logged in, go to Search, select Courses, enter the course ID, and press Enter.

Completing the course and evaluation earns **1.0 Act 58: Registered Nurse** continuing education (CE) credit.

## Contact Us

Pennsylvania Project Firstline  
Pennsylvania Department of Health –  
Bureau of Epidemiology  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0701  
[RA-DHFIRSTLINE@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHFIRSTLINE@pa.gov)



## IPC in Long Term Care (LTC) Facilities

IPC is a cornerstone of quality care in LTC facilities where residents are at a heightened risk of infection due to age-related immune decline, chronic health conditions, and close-contact living environments.

There are more than 700 nursing homes throughout Pennsylvania, serving over 80,000 residents.<sup>1</sup>

Nationally, on any given day, approximately 1 in 43 nursing home residents has a healthcare-associated infection (HAI), highlighting the urgent need for better IPC practices in LTC facilities.<sup>2</sup> Effective IPC measures—such as proper hand hygiene, vaccination programs, antimicrobial stewardship, and environmental cleaning and disinfection can significantly reduce the spread of harmful germs and HAIs.

By prioritizing effective IPC, LTC facilities can enhance residents' quality of life, and promote overall health and safety of their residents and staffs.

IPC resources for LTC facilities:

- **Enhanced Barrier Precautions**
- **Respiratory Toolkit**
- **IPC and LTC Residents**
- **LTC IPC Training** (Earns CME, CNE, or CEUs continuing education (CE) credit)
- **PA PFL LTC series training on TRAIN PA**
  - **Effective Audits** (Course ID: 1117927; Earns 1.0 Act 58: Registered Nurse CE credit)
  - **Don't Get Stuck: IPC Basics and Sharps Safety** (Course ID: 1119571; Earns 1.0 Act 58: Registered Nurse CE credit)
  - **IPC Basics: How you can Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections** (Course ID: 1115392; Earns 1.0 Act 58: Registered Nurse CE credit or CEU)

## References:

1. Nursing homes. (n.d.). Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Retrieved April 9, 2025, from <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/health/facilities/in-patient-healthcare-facilities/nursing-homes.html>
2. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, April 17). HAI and Antimicrobial Use Prevalence Surveys. Retrieved March 30, 2025, from <https://www.cdc.gov/healthcare-associated-infections/php/haic-eip/antibiotic-use.html/>