



South Dakota Project Firstline



**SD PROJECT
FIRSTLINE**

CDC's National Training Collaborative
for Healthcare Infection Prevention & Control

October 2024 Newsletter

This project is sponsored by the **SD DOH HAI/AR Program**



**SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Germs live on the: SKIN

Stop the spread of skin infections like Staphylococcus aureus (staph, including MRSA), Streptococcus (strep), Candida (including C. auris).

WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients

Germs spread through touch.

- Many germs grow on healthy skin.
- Germs on skin can get onto surfaces, other people, and things that will touch other people.
- Skin – especially hands – carries many germs and spreads them easily.
- When one's hands touch surfaces, germs can spread from those surfaces to that person and to others.

Germs spread by bypassing or breaking down the body's defenses.

- Healthcare tasks often involve breaking the skin.
- Breaking the skin – from putting in an IV, drawing blood, surgery, or trauma – creates a pathway for germs to spread into the body.

Healthcare Tasks Involving Skin

- Anything that involves touch
- Needlesticks
- Surgery

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Hand hygiene
- Appropriate glove use
- Cleaning and disinfection

Practicing these infection control actions together effectively stops the spread of germs.

- **Infographic:** [Germs Live on the SKIN](#)



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educational videos:**



**Learn how to prevent
the spread of infections
with CDC infection control
trainings, posters, and
resources.**



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sdprojectfirstline.org



Office Hours Call Link:

Join us! Office hours are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am CST. Each month we focus on Infection Prevention tips. *Learn, share, network!*

Join the **South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care** scheduled Zoom meeting for August's Office Hours, Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErceyggTotHdwQpfrjApSA-nQwCd5oe99P>