



**SD PROJECT  
FIRSTLINE**

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



# February 2024 Newsletter

## Project Firstline Offers **Micro-Learns** to help Stop the Spread of Germs in Healthcare

Micro-learns are a series of guided discussions that connect infection control concepts to immediate, practical value, so healthcare workers can recognize infection risks and take action to stop the spread of germs. They are short, adaptable and can easily be used in your facility to train and educate staff.

### February's Micro-Learn "**Draining Wound**"

A draining wound is a break in the skin or other tissue that has liquid coming out of it. This liquid moves and spreads easily, so draining wounds are treated differently from other types of wounds that can be covered or contained.

A draining wound is a warm, wet place where germs grow easily. A draining wound is also a vulnerable spot on the patient that should be handled carefully, both to keep germs from spreading and to protect the patient from germs.

Always assume the liquid in a draining wound is infectious, even if the drainage is clear. Don't touch the liquid or the wound if you don't have to. If you have to touch anywhere near the wound, or anything that could have been contaminated by liquid from the wound, clean your hands and use gloves.

Depending on the situation, you might need other personal protective equipment to protect yourself. It is often best to cover the wound to contain the drainage and protect the open tissue. In rare situations, however, wounds should not be covered. Consult with the clinical team before covering a draining wound.

Discuss with staff: What do you do when you see blood? Do you worry about catching something? Do you have all the tools you need? How can we do better as a team?

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[sdprojectfirstline.org](https://sdprojectfirstline.org)



### Office Hours Call Link:

**Join us!** Office hours are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 11:00 am CST. Each month we focus on an Infection Prevention tip. *Learn, share, network!*

The **South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care** is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Join here:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89402993770?pwd=NkVyMVQwVFdjQlRON0FIMFhmckZwUT09#success>