

## Week 4: Infection Control & Prevention – Keeping the Built Environment Safe

Session Information
<p><b>Session Topic: Promoting Solutions for Making the Built Environment Safer During COVID-19</b></p> <p><b>National Expert Presenter(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steven J. Schweon RN, MPH, MSN, CIC, FSHEA, FAPIC</li> </ul>
COVID-19 Content: Promoting Solutions for Making the Built Environment Safer During COVID-19
<p><b>Presentation Title:</b> A ‘Farewell to Harms’; Ensuring a Safe Environment for All!</p> <p><b>Session Description:</b> The pandemic and preventing COVID introduction and transmission is a daily challenge for all facilities. Still, the infection preventionist needs to ensure the basic infection prevention practices are in place to prevent bacterial and viral infections. In addition, maintaining a safe work is paramount for the protection of residents and staff. One proactive approach is walking rounds, or environmental rounds, which is going throughout the facility, with a structured focus to assess for potential improvement opportunities and to prevent harm.</p> <p><b>Learning Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify two evidenced based practices that are part of the infection prevention and control program.</li> <li>Apply the lessons learned from walking rounds to the infection prevention program.</li> <li>Identify one evidenced based performance improvement tool.</li> <li>Implement effective communication strategies with colleagues when encountering unsafe work practices.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Special Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> <li></li> </ul>
<p><b>Required Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Video: <i>Cleaning and Disinfection</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Supplementary Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">EPA: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)</a></li> <li><a href="#">CDC: Preparing for COVID-19 in Nursing Homes</a></li> <li><a href="#">Leading Age: Infection Control – COVID 19 Tool and Checklist for the COVID-19 Survey</a></li> </ul>
Quality Improvement: Psychological PPE
<p><b>Learning Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the concept of ‘Psychological PPE’</li> </ul>

**Required Resources:**

- Psychological PPE [resources](#) (overview and graphic)

**Activity:**

- Share the Psychological PPE graphic with 5-10 staff members and get their ideas on what might be needed in your setting.

**Discussion****Guided Questions**

- Is there a section in your center's comprehensive infection prevention and management plan on how to evaluate the built environment, including resident rooms/bathrooms, common areas, laundry, kitchen, etc.?
- Have you observed instances in which non-compliance with safety regulations could lead to resident or staff harm? What do you believe is the most appropriate course of action in those situations?

**Sample Case & Case Questions**

One of residents' favorite activities on the Memory Care Unit has been the live music and dance program. Residents, staff and visitors would sit next to one another in a small circle in a common area, and a staff member would play guitar or piano and sing old favorite songs. Residents and staff members would get up and dance together, holding hands and standing close to one another.

- Is this model of music and dance acceptable during COVID-19? Why or why not?
- How would you change the built environment to make it safe/safer for residents and staff? (Answer: have person with the guitar walk through the halls and stand at least six feet apart from residents; limit one or two residents at a time to sit near the piano, at least six feet apart; weather permitting, conduct activity outdoors with social distancing)
- How would someone on the team clean and disinfect any common areas that are used before and after the activity?