

Infection Prevention Monthly – April 2026

Keep Calm and Contain the Dust

Everyone can play a role in keeping the patient environment clean and safe from contamination. See below for tips!

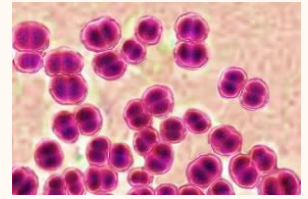
- Dust can carry harmful microorganisms which, when airborne, pose a significant risk to patients. Dust-generating activities should always have a protective barrier in place. High-risk areas (such as the OR, H/O, and ICUs) should additionally use HEPA filters to prevent airborne dust.
- Bigger projects may require negative air pressure. It's important to ensure air pressures are maintained in the construction space and returned to normal when work is complete.
- Water leaks (often identified by ceiling tile stains) are an inevitable side effect of construction and Facilities should be notified immediately.
- Questions or concerns? Please call Infection Prevention and Control at 945-204-2919.



Bug of the Month

Neisseria meningitidis

Neisseria meningitidis is a Gram-negative diplococcus with 12 confirmed serogroups, widely known for causing meningitis and sepsis in children and young adults. It recently gained public attention after an outbreak of serogroup B in Kent (UK), which infected more than 20 college students and killed 2. Symptoms include fever, rash, headache, and neck stiffness, but can rapidly progress to coagulopathy, pulmonary edema, shock, coma, and death. The overall case fatality rate for invasive meningococcal disease is 15%! Asymptomatic colonization of the upper respiratory tract is most common in older adolescents and young adults and is the reservoir from which the organism is spread. Transmission occurs through respiratory droplets and requires close contact. The best ways to prevent infection are vaccination, appropriate PPE use when caring for infectious patients, and prophylaxis after a known/unprotected exposure.



Our Recommendation:

Follow respiratory precautions (regular mask) until 24 hours after initiation of effective antimicrobial treatment. Those with unprotected exposure to respiratory secretions of an infectious patient should contact Occupational Health for evaluation and prophylaxis. Refer to [INP 16](#) for details.

Source: [RedBook: 2024-2027 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

Preventing Healthcare Acquired Infections

PPE Reminder

Appropriate PPE use is critical to the prevention of disease transmission for patients and staff. Surgical masks should fully cover the nose and mouth, and gowns should be secured at the back. Never leave the room with isolation apparel on. Refer to [INP 16 Isolation Precautions](#) for instructions regarding the donning and doffing process (Attachment A) and PPE required for specific pathogens (Attachment B).

K-Cards

What are K-Cards? Kamishibai Cards (K-Cards) are a quality improvement process focused on improved bundle compliance and promoting peer-to-peer feedback for nursing. Two K-Cards that are pertinent to prevention of healthcare acquired infections are CAUTI and CLABSI. The goal is for nursing staff to complete 1 K-Card every calendar day where a central line or urinary catheter are present.

Local Laboratory Trends

PCCMC % Positivity (3/29/26 - 4/4/26):

Rhinovirus/Enterovirus	41.3%
Human Metapneumovirus	16.3%
COVID-19	6.38%
Influenza B	4.26%
RSV	0.0%

Source: PCCMC [LaboratoryMicro/ViroReport](#)

Policy Updates

There were six policy updates for March that will be posted to CookNet soon.

- **INP 01** General Infection Prevention and Control
- **INP 03** Lab Collection
- **INP 05** Linen Collection Procedure
- **INP 08** Laboratory Infection Control
- **INP 22** Expiration Dates Multi Use Solutions
- **MCP 558** Water Management Program

Questions? Call **945-204-2919** or email us at

ProsperInfectionPreventionandControl/Accreditation@cookchildrens.org