



Georgia Project Firstline

Got infection control waste and water management questions? Wondering what items are required to be placed in biohazard bins? Curious about the infection preventionist's role in water management? Connect with Georgia Project Firstline and get the answers. [Infection Prevention and Control Education Experts \(IPCEE\)](#) are providing education and free resources for Georgia's infection preventionists.

Behind the Mask:
Fundamentals of Waste & Water Management

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PROJECT FIRSTLINE UNMC Nebraska Medicine

GERMS CAN LIVE IN BLOOD.

WHERE IS THE RISK?
 Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients

Germes That Can Live in Blood

- HIV
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C

Healthcare Tasks Involving Blood

- Putting in an IV
- Performing a fingerstick
- Collecting blood specimens
- Changing wound dressings

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, eye protection)
- Safe injections
- Cleaning and disinfection

• Viruses like HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C can spread in health care through contact with contaminated blood.

• Items that cause a cut or break in someone else's skin, like fingerstick blood specimens, can spread viruses in blood and cause new infections.

• Reusing equipment like glucometers or multi-dose vials is especially risky because germs in the blood can spread from one person to another.

• Viruses in blood can live on surfaces and spread even when blood is not visible.

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GERMS LIVE IN WATER AND ON WET SURFACES.

WHERE IS THE RISK?
 Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients

Germes That Live in Water

- Acinetobacter
- Serratia
- Pseudomonas
- Legionella

Healthcare Tasks Involving Water

- Bathing
- Oral care
- Flushing tube feeds

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Hand hygiene
- Appropriate supply storage
- Use of splash guards

• Tap water is safe to drink, but it is not sterile. It always has some germs in it.

• Most of the time, the germs in tap water aren't a problem for healthy people, but they can cause illness in patients.

• Germs in water can spread to surfaces and people and cause harm.

• Some medical equipment, like oral syringes used to flush tube feeds, can provide a place for bacteria to grow. When that equipment is used, bacteria can then get into a patient's body or blood and cause infection.

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Need a resource to learn fundamental components of a successful Infection Control and Prevention Program? Connect with our Project Firstline partner, [University of Nebraska Medical Center](#). Also, take advantage of [CDC's Project Firstline](#) free resources. They are [designed to empower health care workers](#) to think critically about infection control.

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