



Introduction to Project Firstline CDPH HAI Program

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Project Firstline is a CDC-funded initiative in collaboration with multiple state and local public health departments to work directly with frontline healthcare personnel (HCP) to improve their infection prevention practices. CDC's national goal for Project Firstline is to provide specific infection prevention and control (IPC) training to more than six million frontline HCP in the United States. California will focus our Project Firstline initiative on our 850 skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and their estimated 35,000 certified nursing assistants (CNAs). Our goal is to reduce healthcare-associated infection (HAI) in SNF by engaging their CNAs in an innovative IPC training program.

Objectives

1. Promote behavioral change by building a universal understanding of the rationale for IPC practices.
2. Develop competency among frontline HCP in the performance of IPC practices known to reduce HAI and promote resident and HCP safety.

Implementation Plan

Three project managers based within the CDPH HAI Program will oversee the program with eight to twelve regionally-based trainers who will provide education throughout the State (with the exception of Los Angeles county, where the local health department is separately funded for Project Firstline).

The project will start with a learning needs assessment among a sample of SNF CNA staff members. The California Project Firstline team will engage existing academic, community-based organization, local public health, and CDPH Licensing and Certification (L&C) District Office partnerships to receive feedback and guidance for tailoring the CDC's *Learning Needs Assessment Tool* to unique demographic and cultural characteristics of the California SNF workforce. Results of the learning needs assessment will inform development of the training course content, which will incorporate CDC-provided and existing HAI Program materials.

During year one, the California Project Firstline team will provide IPC training to SNF CNAs via interactive virtual training sessions in coordination with HAI Program regional infection preventionist teams and local health departments; as COVID-19 pandemic-related SNF visitation restrictions are lifted, the training sessions will be held in-person. Training will be competency-based with return demonstration, and will include IPC fundamentals such as hand hygiene, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) use, and ensuring a safe environment of care. The second year of the program may expand to include other frontline HCP in SNF, such as environmental service workers.