



Dear Healthcare Facility and Infection Prevention Partners,

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is collaborating with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to promote infection control training for all frontline workers across various healthcare settings. Due to the high rate of infections and increased need for infection prevention, the CDC is currently offering quick, easy, and free online training to frontline workers. [Click Here](#) and see the attached Project Firstline Fact Sheet for more information on the CDC Project Firstline training. The state's goal is for at least 5,000 healthcare workers to complete at least one of the offered CDC Firstline Trainings by May 2022.

DSHS recommends that all frontline workers in Texas are provided with information on CDC Firstline training modules. Many of the Infection Prevention training videos can be incorporated into annual Infection Prevention trainings (most videos are only about 3 minutes long), links can be put on healthcare system training sites, and flyers can be posted in staff breakrooms!

As an added incentive, healthcare facilities and public health jurisdictions with the most healthcare worker participation (based on training completion rates) will be invited to send an individual to one of four free DSHS sponsored Infection Prevention training. Two Introduction to Infection Prevention courses (geared toward new Infection Preventionist or Public Health Professionals without Infection Prevention experience), and two CIC Preparatory courses with CIC exam scholarship (geared toward experienced Infection Preventionist or Public Health Professionals with Infection Prevention experience) per course will be offered to those individuals from healthcare facilities with the highest participation rates. The first set of courses is anticipated to be held in the Summer of 2021 and the second set of courses will be held in the Spring of 2022. Please note that these courses may be held virtually in order to comply with COVID restrictions/social distancing recommendations.

In order to participate, just complete the Monthly Training Tracking Template (see attached) and email to HAITexas@dshs.texas.gov at the end of each month with the requested information. DSHS will tally the totals in May 2021 and in February 2022 to determine who will be selected for the exclusive DSHS-sponsored training opportunities!

Feel free to distribute/post any of the attached documentation:

- Project Firstline-Letter to HCWs (docx)
- Project Firstline HCW Announcement (pdf)
- Project Firstline Fact Sheet (pdf)
- Monthly Training Tracking Log (xlsx)

If you have additional questions regarding this project, please feel free to email HAITexas@dshs.texas.gov and reference "Project Firstline" in the subject line.

Thank you in advance for your time.

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

CDC's Project Firstline is a collaborative of diverse healthcare and public health partners that have come together to make that happen. Together with DSHS, CDC collaborative will provide millions of frontline healthcare workers and public health workforce members the infection control training they need to protect the nation from infectious disease threats.

Project Firstline training is:

- Accessible- No matter your previous training or educational background, you will be able to access and understand each video.
- Concise- To fit around your busy schedule. Each video only lasts approximately 10 minutes.
- Interactive- To keep participants engaged, each video is interactive and has built-in knowledge checks.

Project Firstline's first training, *COVID-19 and Infection Control: The Basics*, was released in mid-November 2020.

Key Features

Project Firstline will reach healthcare workers in all healthcare settings, including:

- hospitals,
- outpatient clinics,
- dialysis centers, and
- nursing homes etc.

Core Training: Defined to address immediate workforce infection control training needs, delivered via short and accessible training videos.

Practical Tools: Supports everyone who works in a healthcare facility to implement infection control protocols and procedures throughout their workday.

Partner Engagement: Shares information across all healthcare settings through trusted partners and channels, ensuring that training content and tools are delivered to healthcare workers who need them.

Mentorship: Connects infection control experts with their local healthcare community so that they may become ongoing resources and SMEs.

Public Health Technical Capacity Building: Leverages the public health workforce to facilitate knowledge and tool sharing between public health departments and their local clinics and communities.

Innovation: Deepens knowledge to better inform infection control recommendations and develop innovative platforms and contents to provide infection control training to a diverse range of adult learners.

Infection Control

Infection Control works: The right practices can stop pathogens from spreading in healthcare facilities.

Infection Control as a Team Effort: Infection control is most effective when all team members use it consistently.

Infection Control matters: Infection control is a critical part of safe healthcare delivery in all healthcare settings.

Click the link to access CDC Firstline training: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/index.html>