

What Infection Preventionists Need to Know About Construction and Maintenance

Infection Preventionists should be involved in all construction, renovation, and repair activities.

- During construction and repair activities, vulnerable patients can be exposed to dust and water-damaged material which may contain molds, bacteria, and fungi that can cause severe illness.
- Additional precautions may be needed in areas with high-risk patient groups, including intensive care, step-down and oncology units in hospitals, and ventilator units in skilled nursing facilities.

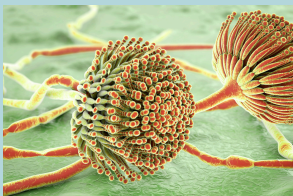


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Scan for more
information on
ventilation hazards.

Examples of Organisms That Can Cause Illness During Construction, Renovation, or Repair Activities



Aspergillus

- Fungus
- Can cause severe invasive infections in immunocompromised patients
- Sources include: drywall, ductwork, soil, ceiling tiles



Legionella

- Bacteria
- Can cause a serious type of pneumonia in vulnerable patients
- Sources include: water systems, cooling towers, faucets, fountains



Dust and Debris Control Examples

- Barriers
- Walk-off mats
- Designated traffic flow
- Coveralls
- Portable HEPA filtration
- Construction material covered during transport



Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA)

- Details protective measures required by workers on the site based on the patient risk in the location and type of construction
- ICRA permit must be posted at the job site
- Guides routine monitoring for compliance by infection prevention team
- Joint Commission standard EC.02.06.05 requires accredited organizations to have a pre-construction risk assessment in place, ready to be applied at any time if planned or unplanned demolition, construction or renovation occurs

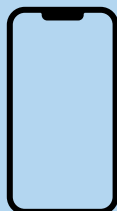


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Scan to download an ICRA example!

Notes:



Visit the HAI Program website to learn more about infection prevention

Tip: Train nursing staff in areas with high-risk patient groups on ICRA requirements during construction!

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