

# High Touch Surfaces:

## A Infection Prevention and Control Activity

### Purpose:

Assess staff knowledge of high touch surfaces in common spaces and how hand hygiene is crucial to preventing the spread of germs in these areas. High touch surfaces are everywhere that people are, not just in direct patient care areas. This activity can be performed with groups of any size.

### Materials:

- Large, glossy-finish posterboard with photo of a common space (i.e. kitchenette). Include as many photos of different common spaces as necessary.
  - For a lower and easier cost option, you could print these photos on 8x11 inch paper or project as a PowerPoint.
- Half inch round stickers
- Easel if using posterboard

### Instructions:

1. Invite group(s) to identify all high touch surfaces in the photo by placing stickers on these surfaces on the poster/paper. (Approximately three minutes)
2. Observe and listen to conversations taking place among staff.
3. When group(s) are done, review some of the high touch surfaces they identified. Point out any they may have missed.
4. Provide an overview (or recap) of how germs spread and discuss key points that impact the need to clean and disinfect common spaces:
  - a. Highly trafficked and utilized by staff from multiple departments, residents, and family members
  - b. Routine actions that contribute to infection prevention and control (IPC) risks, especially during a GI outbreak: (specific to a kitchenette - tailor as needed)
    - i. Dining staff drops off applesauce and juice to refrigerator. Leaves kitchen with cart, enters code on touchpad on secure door, pushes bar to open door, pulls on fridge handle...was hand hygiene performed? *Now the cart, touchpad, door bar, and fridge handle are contaminated.*
    - ii. Family member uses area to warm a resident's coffee in the microwave...was hand hygiene performed? *Now the microwave handle is contaminated.*
    - iii. Maintenance accesses area to check report of leaking faucet...was hand hygiene performed? *Now the sink handle is contaminated.*
    - iv. Nurse accesses fridge to pull applesauce and juice for med pass...was hand hygiene performed? *Now the fridge handle, applesauce, and juice are contaminated.*

5. Invite participation from the group to identify:
  - a. Who is responsible for cleaning this area?
  - b. What can everyone that enters and exits the space do to reduce the risk of spreading germs? (hint...hand hygiene!)
    - i. Is there an alcohol-based hand rub wall unit located in the common space?
6. When finished with activity, if using posterboard, remove the stickers from the glossy finish to preserve the activity for future iterations.