



# Environmental Services Fundamentals for LTC & Senior Living Syllabus

## Section 1

### Module 1 - Importance of EVS In Healthcare Settings

**Time: 14 minutes**

#### Overview

This module introduces the critical role of Environmental Services (EVS) in healthcare settings, particularly in long-term care facilities. Learners will explore the importance of EVS in infection prevention and control (IPAC), relevant legislation, and the specific responsibilities of EVS personnel. The module also covers how environmental factors contribute to the chain of infection and how to evaluate evidence related to environmental sources of infection.

#### Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify the necessity of Environmental Services (EVS) and recognize legislation requirements related to IPAC and environmental services in long-term care (LTC).
2. List the roles and responsibilities of EVS personnel in LTC and describe the importance of their role.
3. Name the eight criteria used to evaluate the strength of evidence for environmental sources of infection.
4. Explain how the chain of infection relates to the environmental context in LTC settings.

### Module 2: Developing an Environmental Cleaning & Disinfection Program

**Time: 15 minutes**

#### Overview

This module guides learners through the essential steps to develop an effective Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Program. It highlights the six foundational building blocks, key program components, and important considerations when selecting

cleaning products. Learners will also understand why implementing such a program is vital for maintaining a safe and healthy facility environment.

### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. List the six building blocks of developing a great Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Program.
2. Identify key components of an Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Program in a facility.
3. Recognize the types of questions to ask during product selection.
4. Describe the reasons why an Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Program is important for your facility.

## **Module 3: PPE and EVS: Keeping EVS Team Members, Patients, and Caregivers Safe**

**Time: 9 minutes**

### **Overview**

This module focuses on the role of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) within the Environmental Services (EVS) team to ensure safety for staff, patients, and caregivers. Learners will explore the Hierarchy of Controls framework, understand when PPE is required during EVS duties, and become familiar with different types of PPE and their protective functions.

### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify the levels in the Hierarchy of Controls and recognize the correct ranking of each control.
2. Explain when and why Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is needed while performing Environmental Services (EVS) duties.
3. Name the different types of PPE and describe their roles in keeping you safe.

## Module 4: Education for Staff

**Time: 6 minutes**

### Overview

This module covers the specific education requirements for Environmental Services (EVS) staff in healthcare settings. Learners will gain insight into occupational health and safety training related to EVS and understand the educational needs of managers and supervisors to support a safe and effective work environment.

### Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify what the Environmental Services (EVS) department-specific education requirements entail.
2. Describe how occupational health and safety relate to EVS and recognize the training associated with it.
3. List the types of education required for EVS managers and supervisors.

## Module 5: Airborne Transmission

**Time: 15 minutes**

### Overview

This module explores airborne transmission of infectious diseases within healthcare settings. Learners will understand the different modes of transmission for droplet and airborne pathogens, identify common airborne infectious diseases, and learn about the components of HVAC systems along with the fundamentals of maintaining good indoor air quality.

### Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify the modes of transmission for droplet and airborne diseases.
2. List common airborne infectious diseases found in health-care facilities.
3. Name the components of HVAC systems and describe the fundamentals of indoor air quality.

## Section 2

### **Module 6 - Surface Cleaning and Disinfection Procedures and Techniques in EVS**

**Time: 17 minutes**

#### **Overview**

This module provides a detailed look at surface cleaning and disinfection procedures used in Environmental Services (EVS). Learners will review fundamental principles of cleaning various surfaces, understand different levels of disinfection, and learn about pest control cleaning practices for medical equipment and housekeeping areas.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Describe general principles of cleaning and disinfection, including carpet cleaning, cloth furnishings, and the cleaning of blood and body fluids.
2. Identify the different levels of disinfection (low, intermediate, and high) and distinguish between low-touch and high-touch surface cleaning.
3. Recognize pest control cleaning procedures for medical equipment and housekeeping surfaces.

### **Module 7 - Environmental Cleaning for Specialized Areas**

**Time: 12 minutes**

#### **Overview**

This module covers environmental cleaning practices for specialized areas within healthcare facilities. Learners will explore proper cleaning procedures for utility rooms, maintenance of cleaning equipment and supply areas, how to handle flood situations, and the distinctions between Construction Clean and Hotel Clean protocols.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Describe the cleaning procedures for clean and soiled utility rooms, and identify best practices for maintaining environmental cleaning equipment and supply rooms (e.g., housekeeping closets).
2. Explain how to respond to a flood and identify cleaning procedures for construction areas.
3. Recognize the difference between Construction Clean and Hotel Clean.

## **Module 8 - Environmental Cleaning for Additional Precautions**

**Time: 14 minutes**

### **Overview**

This module focuses on environmental cleaning protocols for additional infection control precautions. Learners will understand the differences between Contact, Droplet, and Airborne Precautions, learn specific cleaning requirements for each, and review cleaning protocols for microorganisms like VRE, MRSA, C. difficile, and Norovirus.

### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Recognize the difference between Contact, Droplet, and Airborne Precautions.
2. Identify the cleaning requirements for each type of additional precaution.
3. List the cleaning requirements for specific microorganisms such as VRE, MRSA, C. difficile, and Norovirus.

## **Module 9 - Facility Laundry and Waste Management**

**Time: 13 minutes**

### **Overview**

This module addresses laundry and waste management practices in healthcare facilities with a focus on infection prevention and control (IPAC). Learners will explore key concepts in epidemiology related to laundry, learn proper handling and management of soiled and clean linens, and identify safety steps staff can take to minimize exposure to microorganisms.

## **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Describe the basics of epidemiology and general aspects of IPAC and laundry management, including collecting, transporting, and sorting contaminated linens.
2. Identify the difference between soiled and clean linen and explain how to manage both.
3. List steps staff can take to protect themselves from possible microorganism exposure when managing special laundry.

## **Module 10 - Regulated Waste Management**

**Time: 9 minutes**

### **Overview**

This module covers the identification and management of regulated waste in healthcare settings. Learners will understand the types of regulated waste, review proper procedures for handling, storage, collection, and transportation, and learn how staff can protect themselves from infectious risks associated with regulated waste.

## **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify the different types of regulated wastes and describe what they consist of.
2. List the procedures for management, storage, collection, and transportation of regulated waste.
3. Explain how staff can protect themselves from infectious microorganisms that may be present in regulated waste.

## Section 3

### Module 11 - Occupational Health & Safety Issues Related to EVS

**Time: 9 minutes**

#### Overview

This module explores Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) considerations for Environmental Services (EVS) workers in healthcare settings. Learners will review OHS requirements, understand the role of immunization in protecting staff and related work restrictions, and learn basic principles of chemical safety and ergonomics to promote a safer work environment.

#### Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify Occupational Health and Safety requirements related to EVS workers in healthcare settings.
2. Describe how immunization helps protect staff from exposures and recognize relevant work restrictions.
3. List basic principles of chemical safety and ergonomics.

### Module 12 - New Technologies Related to EVS

**Time: 4 minutes**

#### Overview

This brief module introduces learners to new and emerging technologies in Environmental Services (EVS), focusing on innovations for cleaning antimicrobial surfaces. Learners will also explore no-touch disinfecting systems and review common examples of these technologies.

#### Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify new and evolving technologies for cleaning antimicrobial surfaces.
2. Describe what no-touch disinfecting systems are and list some examples.



## Module 13 - Assessment of EVS and Quality Control

Time: 12 minutes

### Overview

This module covers the assessment and quality control processes in Environmental Services (EVS). Learners will become familiar with various observational and visual tools used to evaluate cleanliness, learn about the primary auditing tools used post-cleaning, and understand the strengths and limitations of each assessment method.

### Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify different observational and visual tools used to assess the level of cleanliness.
2. List the three tools used for auditing after cleaning has concluded.
3. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of all assessment tools.

## Module 14 - Animals in Health-Care Settings

Time: 7 minutes

### Overview

This module explores the role of animals within healthcare settings. Learners will examine the potential benefits and risks that animals may present and identify various types of service animals that support healthcare facilities.

### Learning Objectives:

By the end of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Identify the benefits and risks that animals in health care facilities might pose.
2. List the different types of service animals that can support healthcare facilities.

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