



# Project Firstline Year One Overview





# TOGETHER WE TRAIN TOGETHER WE ENDURE TOGETHER WE HEAL

## TOGETHER WE HAVE THE POWER TO STOP INFECTIONS

In October 2020, CDC launched **Project Firstline** to provide all US frontline healthcare workers with the infection control education and training they need and deserve to protect themselves, their patients, and their colleagues from infectious disease threats. **This report highlights Project Firstline's first year of accomplishments.**



# COVID-19 highlights long-standing gaps in infection control knowledge and understanding

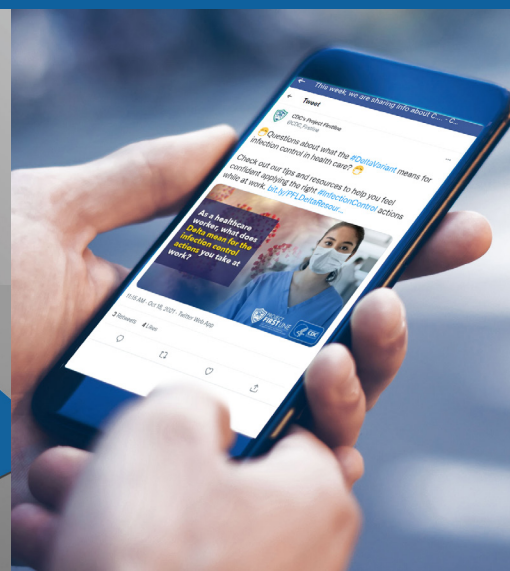
The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed long standing gaps in infection control knowledge and practice in healthcare settings nationwide. In addition to COVID-19 infections occurring among healthcare workers and spreading within healthcare facilities, there was also a documented increase in other healthcare-associated infections in hospitals, reversing national infection control progress made prior to the pandemic<sup>1</sup>.

Beyond COVID-19, infectious disease threats will continue to emerge and threaten the safety of healthcare workers and their patients, reinforcing the need to strengthen infection control capacity in health care. Healthcare workers continue to need and deserve accessible, easy-to-understand infection control information to protect themselves and their patients. **To help address this ongoing need, CDC launched Project Firstline.**

1 Weiner-Lastinger LM, Pattabiraman V, Konnor RY, et al. The impact of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on healthcare-associated infections in 2020: A summary of data reported to the National Healthcare Safety Network. *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*. 2021;1-14. doi:10.1017/ice.2021.362

Project Firstline is an infection control training and education collaborative that intends to provide equity of understanding for all frontline healthcare workers—nurses, certified-nurse assistants, environmental services technicians, doctors, allied health professionals, and administrative/intake staff.

The innovative content is designed so that—regardless of a healthcare worker’s previous training or educational background—they can understand and confidently apply the infection control actions necessary to protect themselves and their patients.



# Project Firstline's First Year: By the Numbers

## During its first year, Project Firstline and its partners:

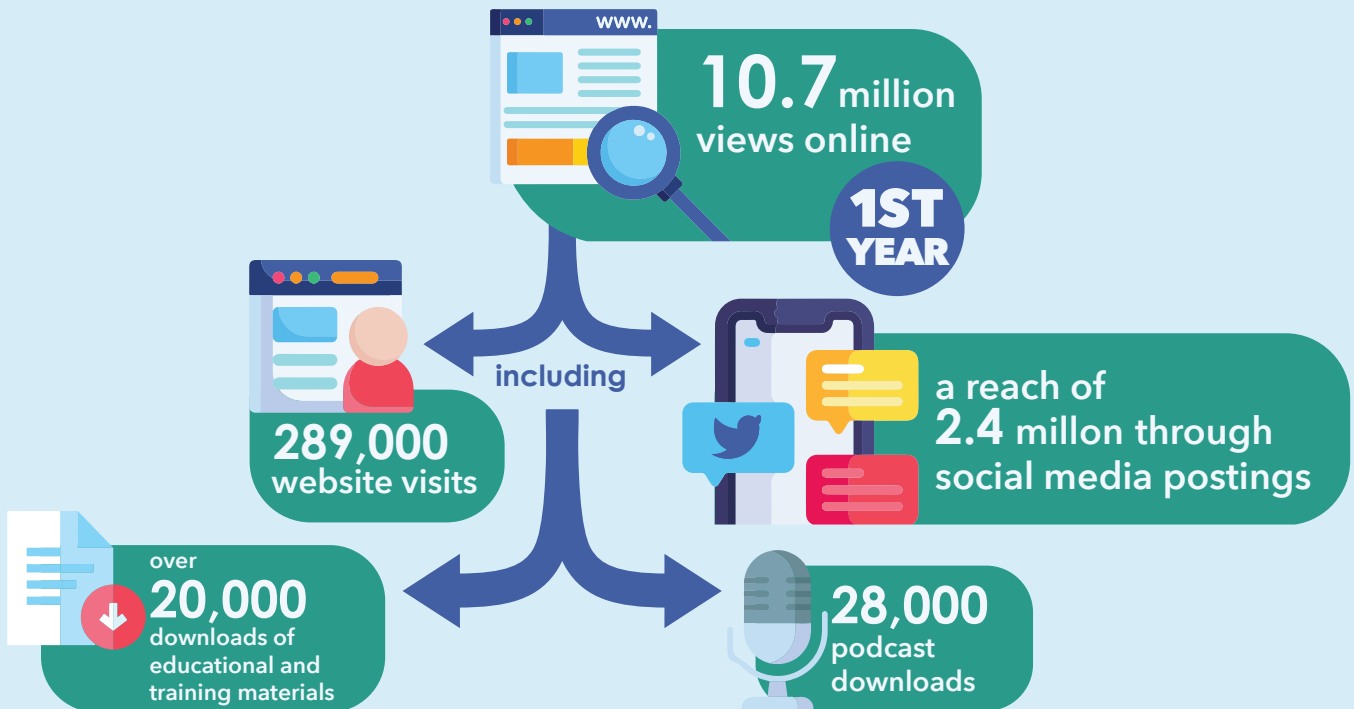
- Developed more than 130 educational products about infection control, including an *Inside Infection Control* video series featuring CDC infectious disease expert Dr. Abby Carlson.
- Created and released a facilitator toolkit with guided session plans and role- and setting-specific job aids.
- Hosted more than 300 educational events reaching approximately 33,300 healthcare workers in professions ranging from environmental service workers, to nurses, to physicians.

94% of healthcare workers who participated in these educational events reported improved understanding of infection control topics, while 93% stated they would recommend the trainings to others.



Project Firstline's *Inside Infection Control* video series, which addresses topics related to COVID-19, received over 270,000 views on social media. The 25 episodes in the series were also grouped by topic into 7 general and continuing education courses.

## TOGETHER, PROJECT FIRSTLINE AND ITS PARTNERS' PRODUCTS AND RESOURCES RECEIVED AN ESTIMATED...



At Project Firstline, we believe that partnership brings greater impact. Together with our partners, we are committed to sharing infection control information across a variety of healthcare settings.



## IN FY20 - FY21, CDC WAS PROUD TO COLLABORATE WITH THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS AS PART OF PROJECT FIRSTLINE...

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Health Care Association
- American Medical Association
- American Nurses Association
- Armstrong Center for Health Care Human Factors, Johns Hopkins Medicine
- Bellevue Hospital
- Emory University
- Health Research & Educational Trust
- Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Council of Urban Indian Health
- National Indian Health Board
- National Network of Public Health Institutes
- RTI International
- University of Nebraska Medical Center
- University of Washington
- 16 community colleges across the United States

## STATE, LOCAL AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:

- |               |             |                 |                  |                 |                                  |                    |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| ■ Alabama     | ■ Hawaii    | ■ Massachusetts | ■ New Mexico     | ■ South Dakota  | ■ District of Columbia           | ■ Mariana Islands  |
| ■ Alaska      | ■ Idaho     | ■ Michigan      | ■ New York       | ■ Tennessee     | ■ Chicago                        | ■ Marshall Islands |
| ■ Arizona     | ■ Illinois  | ■ Minnesota     | ■ North Carolina | ■ Texas         | ■ Houston                        | ■ Palau            |
| ■ Arkansas    | ■ Indiana   | ■ Mississippi   | ■ North Dakota   | ■ Utah          | ■ Los Angeles County             |                    |
| ■ California  | ■ Iowa      | ■ Missouri      | ■ Ohio           | ■ Vermont       | ■ New York City                  |                    |
| ■ Colorado    | ■ Kansas    | ■ Montana       | ■ Oklahoma       | ■ Virginia      | ■ Philadelphia                   |                    |
| ■ Connecticut | ■ Kentucky  | ■ Nebraska      | ■ Oregon         | ■ Washington    | ■ Puerto Rico                    |                    |
| ■ Delaware    | ■ Louisiana | ■ Nevada        | ■ Pennsylvania   | ■ West Virginia | ■ US Virgin Islands              |                    |
| ■ Florida     | ■ Maine     | ■ New Hampshire | ■ Rhode Island   | ■ Wisconsin     | ■ American Samoa                 |                    |
| ■ Georgia     | ■ Maryland  | ■ New Jersey    | ■ South Carolina | ■ Wyoming       | ■ Federated States of Micronesia |                    |



## LOOKING AHEAD: THE FUTURE OF PROJECT FIRSTLINE

With increases in healthcare-associated infections observed during the COVID-19 pandemic, it's more important than ever to equip healthcare workers with the infection control knowledge they need to keep themselves and their patients safe.

**Project Firstline aims to become the go-to resource for infection control training and education for all frontline healthcare workers.** To achieve this goal, the Project Firstline team will continue to listen to and learn from the diverse audiences it's trying to reach. These insights and others learned during the past year are helping inform development of a new suite of educational materials designed to help healthcare workers build a foundational knowledge and understanding of infection control that they can apply daily in their work.



# PROJECT **FIRST LINE**

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

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STOP INFECTIONS.  
TOGETHER.**



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