

Learning Activity:

Researching Your Infection Control Questions



Getting Started

Overview:

When working in healthcare settings, have you ever wondered why infection control recommendations are what they are? In this assignment, students will research the “why” behind a specific infection control recommendation or action using CDC resources and published research. Understanding why infection control actions are recommended makes it easier to identify potential infection risks and act with confidence as a healthcare worker. The [Learning Activity Instructions](#) provide recommendations for research strategies and paper structure.

Course Type Recommendation: Clinical courses for healthcare students; Nonclinical courses such as health communications, public health, or pre-health courses

Underlying Principle: Understanding why infection control actions are recommended makes it easier to identify potential infection risks and act with confidence.

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze and synthesize literature on an infection control action recommendation.
- Understand why an infection control action is recommended by completing a literature review.

Key Terms:

- **Literature review:** a summary and synthesis of sources on a particular topic
- **Standard Precautions:** routine infection control actions that healthcare workers use to help keep disease-causing germs from spreading in healthcare settings

Key Resources:

[Standard Precautions for All Patient Care | Infection Control | CDC](#)
[Infection Control in Health Care: An Overview | Project Firstline | CDC](#)
[Art of Reading a Journal Article: Methodically and Effectively](#)

Recommended Rubric(s) for Assessment:

[VALUE Rubrics - Information Literacy | AAC&U](#)
[VALUE Rubrics - Written Communication | AAC&U](#)
[VALUE Rubrics - Reading | AAC&U](#)
[VALUE Rubrics - Oral Communication | AAC&U](#)

Learning Activity Instructions

This assignment invites students to conduct and write a basic review of literature focused on exploring why a specific infection control action may be recommended.

1. As a starting point, invite students to consider a specific health care role and setting related to their chosen career path or your course's aim (e.g., medical assistant in outpatient clinic, certified nursing assistant (CNA) in long-term care facility). Using CDC's resources on Standard Precautions, linked in the [Key Resources](#) above, select an infection control recommendation to research further.
2. Invite students to conduct a literature review on the infection control recommendation. They should conduct a thorough search of academic databases such as Google Scholar or PubMed to find the resources cited by CDC in the Standard Precautions resources as well as additional relevant peer-reviewed articles not directly cited.
3. After gathering a list of relevant articles, students should read and analyze each one.
4. Students should then write a literature review on the topic they have researched, being sure to synthesize and analyze findings. You can assign specific requirements regarding the structure and format of the outline and final paper based on the needs of your course.

Recommended Paper Structure:

- Introduction with a thesis statement
 - Review of literature summarizing and synthesizing at least 5 to 8 sources
 - Discussion and interpretation of findings that address the thesis statement
 - Conclusion
5. Consider having students complete oral presentations to the class to share their findings and engage in discussion on these topics.