BREAKING DOWN THE SILOS

Midwest Healthcare Engineering Conference November 9, 2021 Loie Couch, RN, BS, CIC, FAPIC

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Examine the history of healthcare
- Discuss the benefits of a collaborative relationship between Infection Prevention and Facilities
- Review the precautions applied to protect patients, but allow for project completion
- Facilitate effective communication with other departments

DISCLOSURES

• I have nothing to disclose

LOIE COUCH, RN, BS, CIC, FAPIC

- RN 1985
- BS Health Care Leadership
- Infection Prevention 2003
 - CIC certified infection control 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020
 - FAPIC Fellow of Association of Professionals in Infection Control

- 2016





BARNES-JEWISH HOSPITAL

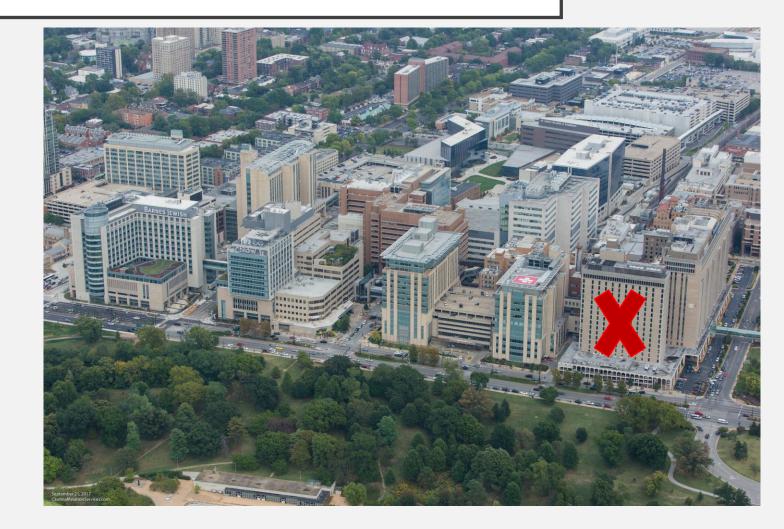
1305 beds

Tertiary medical center

Affiliated with Washington

University School of

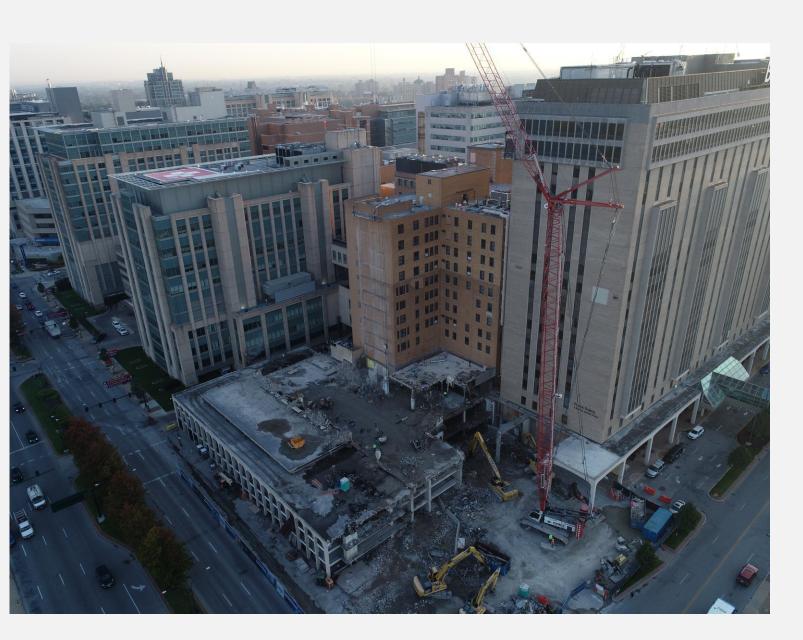
Medicine













HISTORY OF HOSPITALS

- Early modern era (1500-1800)
- A few good men (and women) early to mid 1800s
- Progressive era (1890-1920)
- Post World war II era (1940-1950)
- Modern era 1950s to present

MEDIEVAL ERA

- 5th to 15th centuries
- Hospitals called "spittle houses"
 - Cared for sick, insane and destitute
 - Plague
 - Bodies left in streets, placed in mass graves out of town
 - 1/3 of Europe's population killed
 - People from infected areas were hanged
 - Smallpox
 - 20%-60% mortality rate
 - Influenza
 - Dysentery
 - Typhus (louse borne)

MEDIEVAL ERA

- Hospitals were small and had large burial grounds
- Isolated Leprosy patients "pest houses"
- Built over sewers
- Surgery had 60%-80% mortality rates
- Vermin running rampant in hospitals
- Corpses remained >24 in a bed, with other patients



EARLY MODERN ERA (1500

- Plague no longer an issue
- Infectious diseases remained the leading cause of death
 - Yellow fever
 - Smallpox
 - Measles
 - Cholera
- Treatments included purges, emetics, opium, quinine and blood letting

EARLY MODERN ERA (1500-1800)

- 1796 Edward Jenner deliberately inoculated an 8 year old boy with cow pox
- First "clinical trial" for smallpox vaccination
- The boy successfully withstood a smallpox challenge, demonstrating immunity

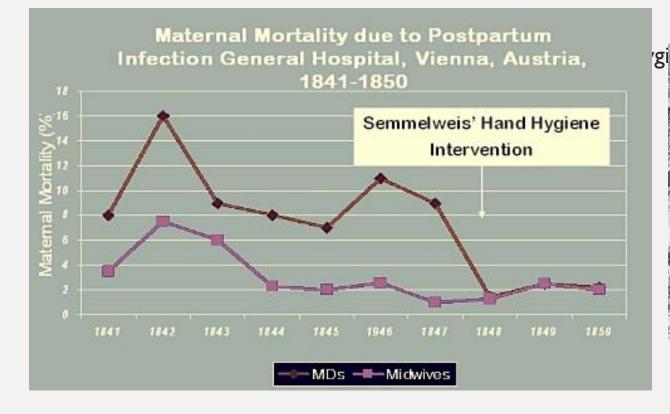
EARLY MODERN ERA (1500-1800)

- Medications not tested for efficacy and safety
 - Mercury poisoning common
- Hospitals crowded, dirty, poorly ventilated, multiple patients in one bed
- Wealthier families cared for at home
- Frequent epidemics
 - Tetanus
 - Erysipelas
 - Septicemia
 - Gangrene
 - Louise borne typhus (hospital fever)
 - Tuberculosis
 - Cholera

EARLY MODERN ERA (1500-1800)

- Hospital mortality 25%
- Surgeries very deadly
- Women rarely survived C-sections
- Strolling barbers/surgeons performed most surgeries (between shaves and haircuts)
- Overcoats worn to protect their clothing (contaminated with blood and pus)
- Instruments and probes not cleaned in between patients (even if dropped on the floor
- Wounds not cleansed or closed, surgeons (barbers) didn't wear gloves

MID TO LATE 1800S

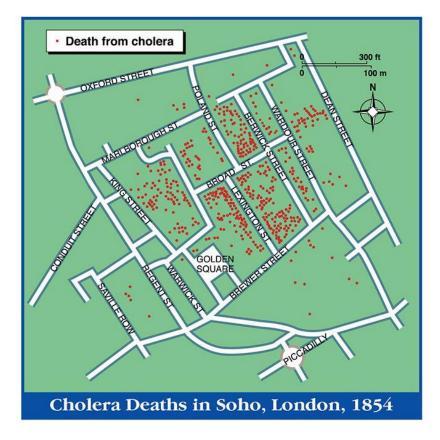


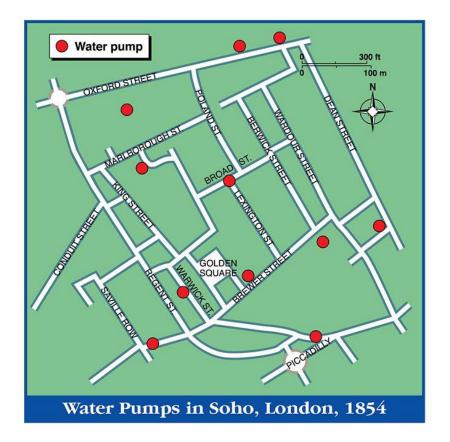


MID TO LATE 1800S

- Early 1850 Florence Nightingale Improved hygiene practices in hospitals, significantly decreased death rate
- 1850 Louis Pasteur theorized living microscopic organic matter in air
- 1886 Louis Pasteur immunized a boy bitten by rabid dog
- 1854 John Snow Father of Epidemiology
 - Broad street pump
 - Anesthesia chloroform
 - Hygiene practices
 - Performed anesthesia on Queen Victoria for the births of her 8th and 9th children 1853 and 1857

BROAD STREET PUMP





https://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/mapping-london-epidemic/

MID TO LATE 1800S

- Joseph Lister 1860
 - Reviewed Pasteur's work
 - Infections caused by living organisms
 - Destroyed by boiling
 - Disinfectant soaked dressings
 - Handwashing
 - Covering wounds
- Using chemicals
 - German creosote (5% Carbolic acid)
 - Between 1865 and 1867 treated 11 compound fractures, 9 did not get infected
 - 1890 Microbes causing sepsis identified

Hekint.org/2017/01/22

MID TO LATE 1800S

- 1876 Kock conclusively proved specific bacteria can cause disease (anthrax)
- 1891 First patient received diphtheria anti-toxin
- Use of soap increased
- Milk pasteurization
- Water treatment systems
- Sewer systems
- By 1900 40/45 states had established health departments, public drinking water chlorination had begun

PROGRESSIVE ERA

- By 1900 there were 4,000 hospitals in the US
- No longer seen as "last resort"
- Electricity
- X-ray units
- Intravenous fluid therapy and clinical thermometry
- Lister's surgical asepsis decreased post amputation mortality from 45% to 15%
- Rubber gloves introduced in 1890

PROGRESSIVE ERA

- Infection rates lower than 1800s
 - Dysentery
 - Puerperal (childbirth) fever
 - TB
 - Pneumonia
 - Gangrene
 - Influenza
 - Erysipelas
- Hospital mortality rate 10%

PROGRESSIVE ERA

- Hospital floors and walls lined with glazed tile
- Surgical dressings packaged and placed on perforated boiler trays
- Operating rooms mopped between cases
- Lighting was good
- Hot and cold water available
- Surgeons began wearing gowns instead of street clothes to operate in
- Patients bathed on admission

- Public health efforts increased
- TB, diphtheria, pertussis, measles, puerperal sepsis declined
- Alexander Flemming noted inhibitory effect of contaminating mold on Staphylococcus aureus colonies (Penicillium)
- Sulfanilamide and Penicillin were now potent drugs
- 1942 First injection of Penicillin given at Yale Hospital
- Streptomycin discovered, TB treatment

- 1938 105 people died from ethylene glycol, used to dilute sulfanilamide
 - Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act
 - Required proof of safety before new drug approval
- 1946 CDC founded
 - First weekly disease report
 - 161 cases of poliomyelitis
 - 4 cases of smallpox
 - 229 cases if diphtheria
 - 25,041 cases of measles

- Mobile X-ray units screened for TB
 - Mortality rate decreasing
 - 500/100,000 in 1850
 - 50/100,000 in 1945
- Hospital building boom
 - Hill-Burton Act 1946
 - Hospitals much safer
 - ORs cleaned after each procedure
 - Standard surgical attire
 - Supplies boiled and reused
 - Gauze ironed and reused

- Following the introduction of antibiotics, Streptococcal disease declined
- Staphylococcus aureus emerged as predominant pathogen in the 1950s
 - Related to antibiotic resistance
- Epidemics occurred in hospitals
- Hospital employees at risk for TB
- Nurses and med students became positive for TB

AND THEN

- 1960s Infectious patients on general wards
 - CDC offers course on surveillance and control of nosocomial infections
 - JCAHO (TJC) mandates standards for Infection Control
- 1970s -
 - CDC publishes isolation techniques for use in hospitals
 - CDC Study Efficacy of Nosocomial Infections (SENIC) demonstrated importance of infection control programs

AND THEN

- June 6, 2003 CDC publishes Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health Care facilities
 - Infection control impact of ventilation systems and water system performance
 - Establish a multidisciplinary team to conduct infection control risk assessments
 - Use of dust control procedures and barriers during construction, repair, renovation, demolition and maintenance
 - Guidance for recovering from water system disruptions, water leaks and natural disasters

AMI ENVIRONMENTAL – CDC - ASHE

- ICRA sinks, types, location, HH placement
 - Automatic faucet use questionable
- Hand hygiene
- Reprocessing
- Environmental surface cleaning
- Water
- Patient, personnel, equipment and waste transport

2015

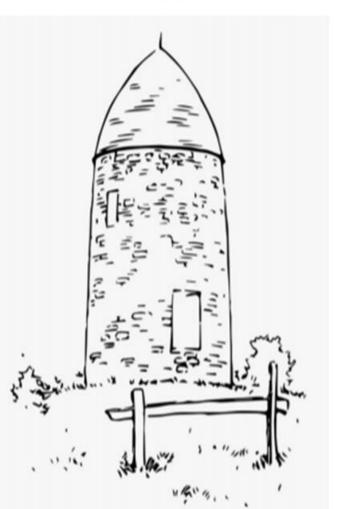
- ASHRAE 188
 - Prevent the growth and spread of Legionella
 - Testing
 - Frequency
 - Locations
 - Plans for response

AUTHORITIES HAVING JURISDICTION

- Recommend IP involvement
 - JCAHO (TJC)
 - AIA
 - ASHRAE
 - ASHE
 - CDC
 - APIC

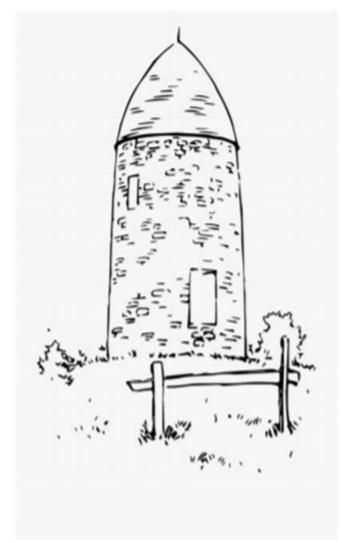
How It Started

Facilities





Infection Prevention



IP TRIES TO WORK WITH FACILITIES



AND THE PROBLEMS STARTED

- Most IPs have a clinical background, not construction or maintenance
- Most facility personnel have construction and maintenance background, not clinical
- Many IPs wear multiple hats, maintenance and construction are not on the front burner

Contagious, CLABSI, All room, contact precautions, CAUTI, vent settings, urine culture, trach...

Plenum return, waste stack, air pressure differential, floor sink, VAV box, chase...

THINGS I HAVE BEEN TOLD

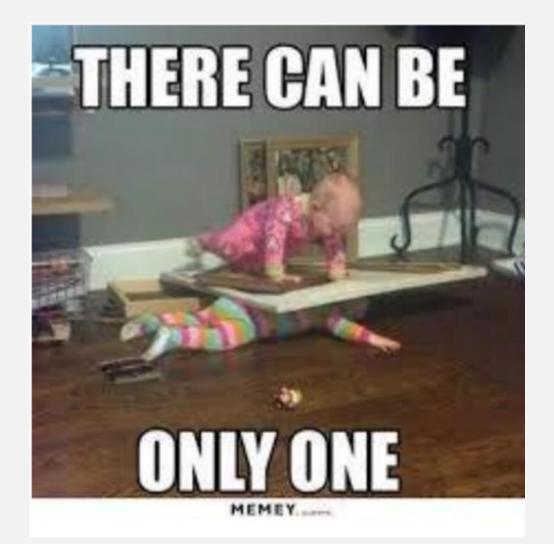
- You can't tell me what to do
- You're just a nurse, what do you know
- We have never done it like this before
- If you let me do it my way, I would be done by now
- Whatever (and continues on the way they were doing it)
- You're not my boss
 - And in my head I think your are a jerk

WHAT YOU HEAR

- Blah, blah, blah
- You have to do what the ICRA says
- Because I said so, that's why
 - And you think you are an idiot

WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS A FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE

- I don't want you to think that I am stupid
- I don't want you to know that I have no clue what you are talking about
- When you start being condescending, I will talk louder
- When I talk louder, you listen less
- When you talk louder, the less I hear you say
 - I am too busy thinking what my comeback line will be
- I will be right no matter what
- I can't be wrong
- I MUST WIN



SO HOW CAN WE FIX THIS?

- It is a two-way street
- Language barrier
- IPs learn some key concepts
 - Ask questions
 - Find a resource, a "go to"
- Facilities "dumb it down" a little for lay people
 - Explain
 - Draw pictures
 - Be patient

FACILITIES LINGO

- HVAC causes the most confusion
 - Heating
 - Ventilation
 - Air Conditioning
- Airborne transmission of disease has been a problem since mankind has lived indoors.
 - UV radiation (sunlight) kills most microbes that cause disease in humans
 - Many respiratory pathogens have adapted to our comfortable indoor environments escaping deadly sunlight

IN HEALTHCARE

- Dilution ventilation
- Contaminant exhaust
- Directional airflow control
- Filtration
- Environmental temperature control
- Relative humidity control

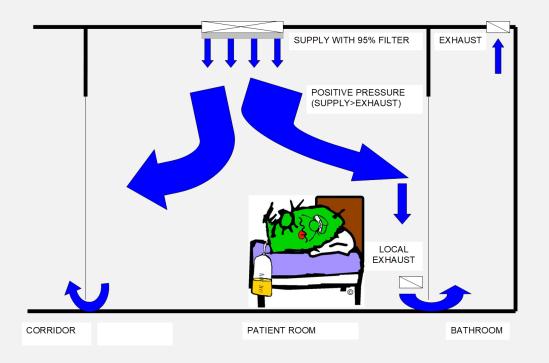




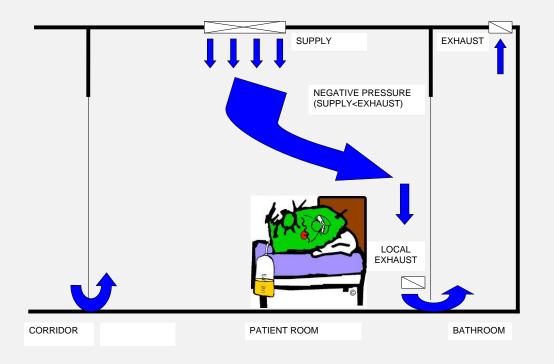
AIR DIFFERENTIALS

- Air pressure differentials between supply and exhaust air measurable amount
- CFM cubic feet per minute passing a stationary point
- Supply > return pushes air out of the room positive pressure
 - ORs
 - Protective environment
 - Clean rooms
- Supply <return pulls air into room negative pressure
 - Dirty utility rooms
 - Airborne infectious isolation rooms
 - Bronchoscopy suites

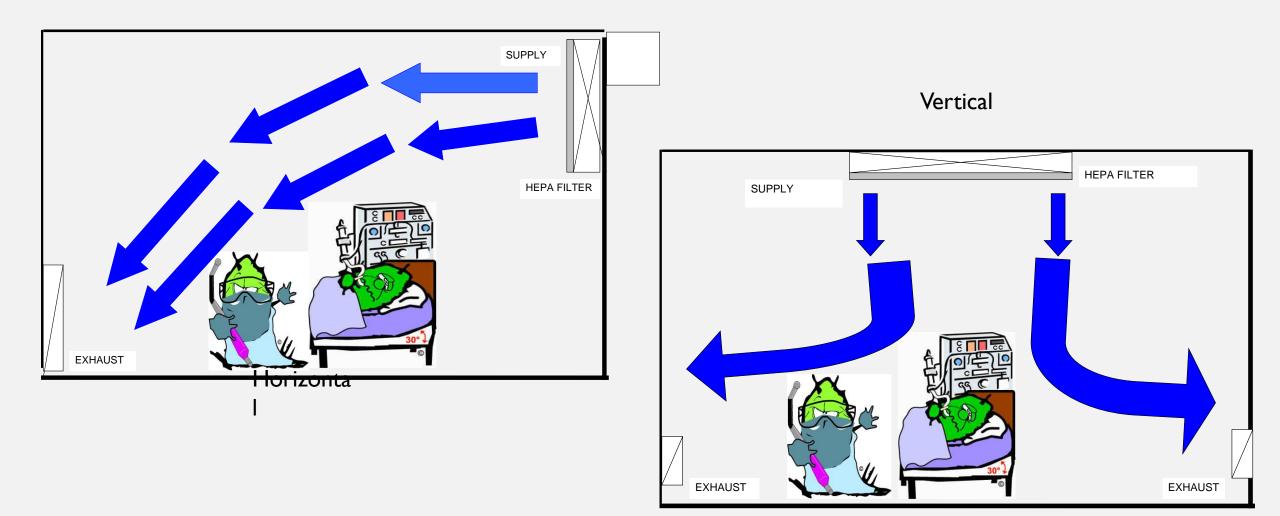
POSITIVE PRESSURE



NEGATIVE PRESSURE



LAMINAR FLOW



FROM THE IP SIDE

- Why does it matter?
 - Increased costs
 - Increased length of stay
 - Increased sickness
 - Increased death

THE SPECTRUM OF FUNGITHAT INFECT HUMANS

- 1.5 5 million fungal species in the world
- Several hundred cause disease in humans
- Very few affect healthy people
- Few have four conditions necessary to infect humans
 - High temperature tolerance
 - Ability to invade human host (penetrate skin)
 - Digestion and absorption of human tissue
 - Resistance to human immune system
- In healthy creatures, fungal infection is rare
 - Animal sophisticated immune system evolved in constant response to fungal exposures
- Fungal disease occurs frequently in immunocompromised patients

(Cold Spring Harb Perspect Med 2015;5:a019273)

FUNGAL INFECTIONS IN HUMANS

- Fungal infections in humans are some of the most difficult infections to manage in humans
- Some fungi cause disease in healthy people
- Most fungal infections occur in people already experiencing serious illness

INFECTIOUS FUNGI

- Fusarium spp.
 - Plant pathogen
- Candida spp.
 - Most common cause of fungal infection worldwide
 - Found in gut flora
 - C. krusei used to ferment cacao in chocolate production
- Cryptococcus spp.
 - Found in soil
 - Most species not harmful to humans

INFECTIOUS FUNGI

- Histoplasma spp.
 - Soil enriched with bird and bat droppings
 - Disruption of soil from excavation or construction can release infectious elements
- Blastomyces spp.
 - Lives in moist soil and decomposing wood and leaves

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

- Lung infections with aspergillus first described in 1842
- In the 1930's and 1940's much research into mold and how the lungs react
- In the 1940's it was noticed that antibiotics don't really help fungal infections
- In the 1950's it was noted that patients on steroids or children with leukemia were prone to invasive aspergillosis
- In 1954 the first anti-fungal drugs were developed, Nystatin and Amphotericin
 B, however mass production of Amphotericin took a while to develop
- First tried on a 61 y/o woman in 1959, however supplies ran out before she was cured

INFECTIOUS FUNGI

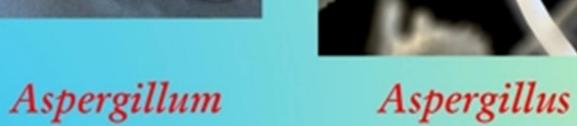
- Aspergillus
 - Common Mold (fungus)
 - Lives indoors and outdoors
 - Most people breathe it in every day
 - Second most common cause of fungal infections worldwide



Hospenthal, et al. 1998

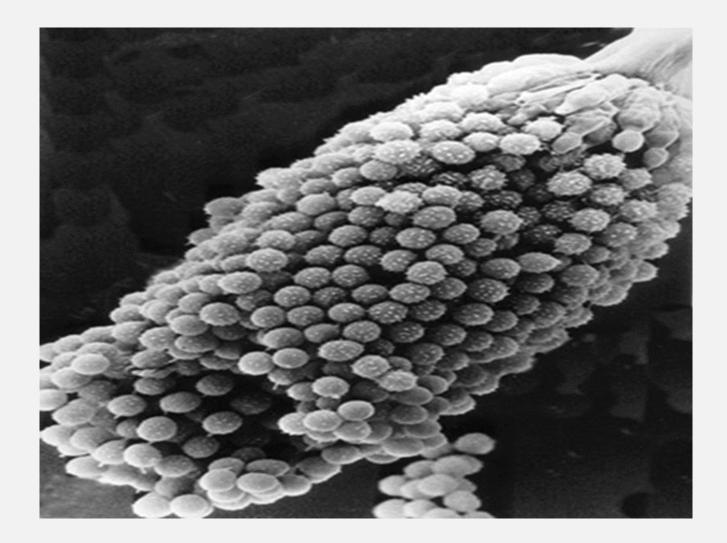
ASPERGILLUM





WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- Mold spores, particularly aspergillus are ubiquitous
- Attaches to dust molecules in the atmosphere
- Many, many outbreaks of invasive aspergillosis reported in the literature
 - Construction projects
 - Ductwork issues
 - Water leaks



WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- Aspergillosis can occur in an immuno-competent person – (someone with no known suppression of their immune system) where previous tissue damage has occurred – usually in the lungs
- Risk factors for invasive aspergillosis also include patients on steroids, chemotherapy, stem cell and solid organ transplant, AIDS

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

 1996 – Montreal – Risk of patient acquiring Aspergillus went from 3.18/1000 patient days prior to construction to 9.88/1000 patient days. Subsequent implementation of infection control measures decreased risk to 2.91/1000 patient days **

** Loo, et. al (ICHE June 1996)

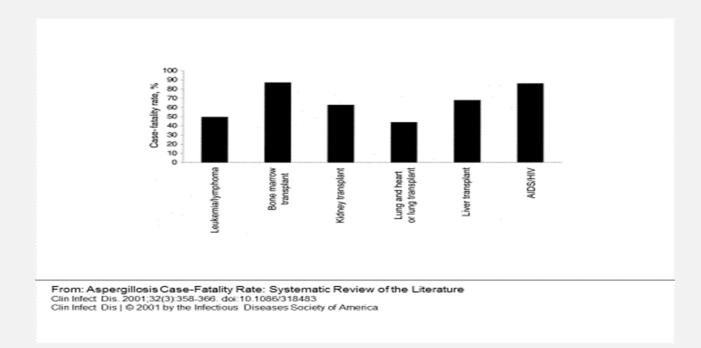
	🗆 Not	t Required for Project								
Name of Project:				Project #:						
Location of Constructio	n:			Project Start Date:						
Phasing?		Yes No How Many?		Estimated Duration / Project End Date:						
Patient Relocation?		Yes No		Contractor:						
Relocation area:		•		IP Representative:						
Facility EH&S Represen	tative			Facility Representative:						
		cc	NSTRUCTION ACTIVITY TYPES:	Mark "X" in box under type						
Work Type A	Inspection and non-invasive activities, involving no dust, including but is not limited to:									
	· Painting (but not sanding)									
	· Electrical trim work, , and	activities which do not generate dust or requi	re cutting of walls or access to co	eiling other then for visual inspection						
Work Type B	Small scale, short duration ac	tivities which create minimal dust, including l	but not limited to:							
	Minor plumbing									
	Removal of ceiling tiles for	visual inspection								
	_									
	Installation of telephone and computer cabling using existing "J" hooks or wire trays									
	Removal of < or = to 5 floor tiles or carpet squares									
	Access to chase spaces Cutting a small area of a wall where dust migration can be controlled such as within a closed chase space or use of a hepavac while cutting									
Work Type C				l of dust, requires demolition or removal of any fi	ixed building components or ass	semblies including but not limited to				
		,			,					
	 Sanding walls 									
	 Removal > 5 floor tiles or 	carpet squares or removal of casework								
		ncluding J Hook or wire tray installation								
	Major cabling activities									
	Major demolition									
	Wall covering or cove base removal									
	New construction									
INFECTION CONTROL	RISK GROUPS: Mark "X" in bo	x next to group number. Using the followir	ig table, identify the patient ri the active work is bei	isk group that will be affected. Consider impac ing performed.	t on areas immediatley above	e, below and or adjacent to the area where				
	Patient/	Location Group 1-		Patient/Location Gro	oup 2-					
Cardiology	radeny	All inpatient areas EXCEPT adult & pedia	tric oncology, and · Trar	nsplant units, including Bone Marrow Transplant	All laboratory areas					
Echocardiography		bone marrow transplant		nsive Care Units	Special Care Nurseries (leve	vel 2 or >)				
Endoscopy suites		Emergency Department	· Inte	Interventional Radiology (Special Procedures)						
Nuclear Medicine		Labor and Delivery		Central Sterile Processing						
	excluding cancer clinics,	Well baby nurseries		Operating Room (including C-section rooms)		talitas				
transplant clinincs and	chemo infusion centers	Well baby flut series		rating room (including e-section rooms)	 Pharmacy, main and all sat 	tentes				
Pulmonary functio	n transplant clinics	Pediatrics	 Cancer clinics, including chemo centers, transplant 		 Cardiac Cath Lab/Hybrid O 	Drs				
· Kitchen, cafeteria		 Pre and post op areas 	st op areas Radiation oncology/Gamma knife/Linear accelerator/Proton therapy							
· Radiology/MRI, CT		Pain Management Clinic								
· Respiratory Therap	у	Therapy Services								
Wound center		· Ultrasound								
Admitting		 Main lobby areas and/or common hallw 	avs							
Offices (e.g. no patients present)		Medical Office Building/Doctors' offices								
(a.g put	·····	, become offices								

Risk Level		Type A (no dust)	Construction Activity Type B (minimal dust)	Type C (mod/maj dust)	
up 1 -		Green	Yellow	Red	
up 2 - highest group for risk		Green	Red	Red	
	Check if				
Class	applicable		DURING Construction	Project	Additional Notes
Green		Interventions			
No dust		Close doors to patient ro	ooms or offices near work		
Noninvasive			reas or cover clean supplies tightly; store supp	plies away from where work is performed	
Inspection a ctivities			oved away from where work is performed		
			ounters and equipment with plastic; protect pe not already documented:	ersonal belongings as appropriate	
		,	,		
Yellow (in addition to GREEN above)		Interventions			
Il a mount of dust in controlled environment			cialist consulted at least 3 business days 72 p g of project if project to last > 24 hours; Respo		
				ch department manager or designee (e.g. charge nurse)	
		at the beginning of each		ment / Office manager O ther (specify)	
				or aerosolization of water, such as working within a	
		cube, misting of ceiling s etc.	surrace with water (with or without bleach), ap	opropriate plastic barrier, use of hepavac while cutting,	
		Mist carpet tiles before i	removal		
		No patients present in a	ctive work area		
			to project site should be covered/wrapped		
		Debris removed in cover Designate an elevator or	ed containers route for debris removal when necessary		
		Open penetrations mus	t be covered if unattended (e.g. plastic, dry w	all, etc)	
			arriers must be closed if unattended		
		Ceiling tiles replaced AS/ Walk off sticky mats	AP and must be closed if unattended		
		Clean work site at end of	f workday.		
		HEPA machine in area as	s air scrubber. Designate location of machine:		
		Additional requirements	not already documented:		
1	_				
(in addition to Green and Yellow above)		Interventions:			
(in addition to Green and Yellow above)				un other (for the	
(in addition to Green and Yellow above)			when entering or leaving HSO. Notification	responsibility person:IPOther (Specify)	
(in addition to Green and Yellow above)		Patients to wear masks	when entering or leaving HSO. Notification inspected by IP prior to beginning work	responsibility person:IPOther (Specify)	
(in addition to Green and Yellow above)		Patients to wear masks Barriers constructed and Barrier type:Air tig!	l inspected by IP prior to beginning work ht soft (plastic) wall (acceptable if work lasts 7	2-96 hrs or less per discretion of IP/Safety);	
(in addition to Green and Yellow above)		Patients to wear masks Barriers constructed and Barrier type:Airt tig Airtight hard wall p	inspected by IP prior to beginning work ht soft (plastic) wall (acceptable if work lasts 7 artition (floor to deck);Airtight hard v		
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(in addition to Green and Yellow above)		Patients to wear masks Barriers constructed and Barrier type:Airt tig Airt tig thard wall p Ceiling plastic curtain re- Barrier seams taped Maintain negative air flo Check pre filters on Tans major demolition Use visual monitor/aide Contractor to document	Inspected by IP prior to beginning work ht soft (plastic) wall (acceptable if work lasts 7 artition (floor to deck);Airtight hard v quired w within constuction site (Note: cap off air su or units used to maintain negative airflow (co for negative air pressure.	2-96 hrs or less per discretion of IP/Safety); wall partition (floor to ceiling) pply if necessary to achieve negative pressure) mmonly HEPA) at least daily or more frequently if maintained.	
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INFECTION PREVENTION PRECAUTIONS

- Protect patients
- Protect staff
- Maintain safe environment
- Still allow work to be accomplished

PATIENT RISK



INFECTION PREVENTION

- Bleach
- Barriers
 - Dust minimization and control
- Stagnant Water
- Utility interruptions
- Open penetrations
 - Including ceiling tiles

BLEACH???

- Hospital disinfectants don't kill spores
- Bleach will kill spores
- Misting with bleach has 2 purposes
 - Dampening the area to prevent dust from migrating
 - Bleaching the spores so that should they disperse they are killed

CEILING TILE BLEACH PROTOCOL

PURPOSE: Movement of ceiling tiles can cause "showers" of dust particles. These dust particles carry airborne Aspergillis spores, which can cause a life-threatening infection in high-risk patients or visitors whose immune status is compromised. In order to reduce the disruption of dust particles, the air above the ceiling tile should be sprayed with bleach solution before displacing ceiling tiles.

APPROPRIATE BARRIERS SHOULD BE IN PLACE BEFORE CEILING WORK IS STARTED. INFECTION CONTROL SHOULD BE CONSULTED FOR ALL CEILING WORK DONE IN PATIENT CARE AREAS.

- Remove only those tiles that are necessary to accomplish the job. Replace ceiling tiles as soon as work in that area is completed. Do NOT leave ceiling exposed for more than <u>4 hours</u>, unless you are actively working in that area.
- 2) Make up the appropriate amount of bleach solution for the job at hand (mix only enough for one day's work) and transfer the solution to a spray bottle OR if using an automatic mixing sprayer, empty and rinse the water bottle daily before filling.
- 3) Fresh bleach solution should be made up daily.
- BLEACH SOLUTION: one part bleach to nine parts water.
 - Examples: 1 gallon of bleach to 9 gallons of water ¹/₂ gallon of bleach to 4 ¹/₂ gallons of water 1 qt. of bleach to 9 qt. water
- 3) Slowly lift one corner of ceiling tile to allow your other hand with the spray bottle to gain access to the space above the tile.
- 4) Thoroughly mist the air above the ceiling tile in a 360-degree fashion.
- 5) Replace the ceiling tile and allow the mist to settle for **at least 5-10 seconds** before removing tile.

If you have questions, please contact Infection Control 454-7560.







CLOROX GERMICIDAL CLEANER

- Available from Grainger
- 10% premix
- Stable in bottle until expiration date on bottle
 - CLOROX HEALTHCARE
 - Item # 45MY94
 - Mfr. Model #686974

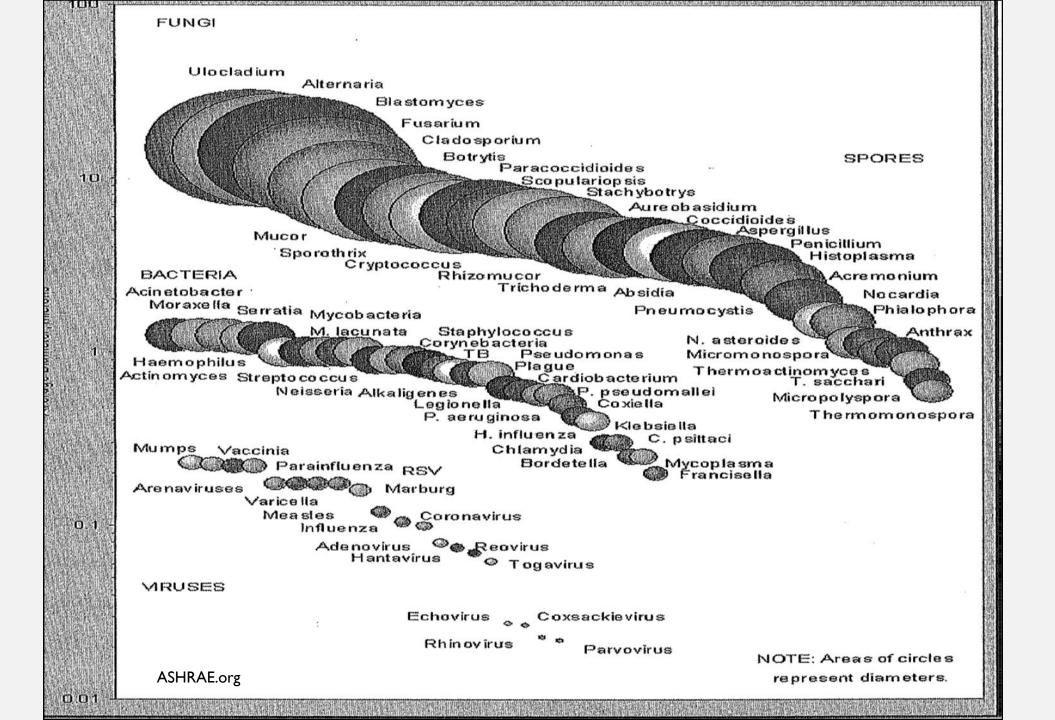
BLEACH

- A. fumigatis grown on 3 common building materials and in "petri dish" OSB, plywood, drywall
- Contaminated materials sprayed with 10% bleach mixtures compared to untreated
- A. fumigatis killed on sprayed items

Martyny JW, et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2005 Sep; 116(3):630-5

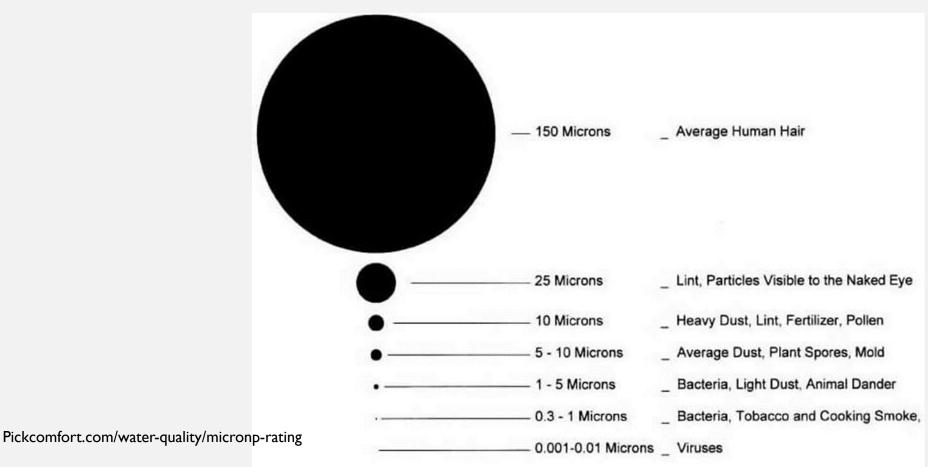
BARRIERS

- Hard or soft
 - Type of work
 - Location
 - Duration



HEPA (HIGH EFFICIENCY PARTICULATE AIR FILTER

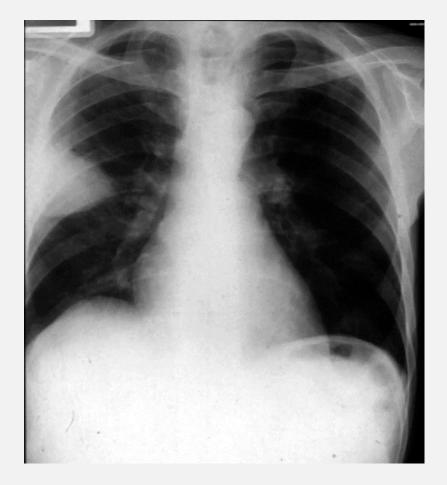
• 99.97 % anything greater than .3 microns



WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- Patient on the Leukemia Lymphoma:
 - Admitted 6/1
 - Diagnosed 6/23
 - Expired 6/30
- Renovation, including demolition, on 6900 started May—ongoing at time of diagnosis





Chest X ray after 4 days, prior to treatment, showing massive increase in volume of lesion. He started amphotericin B and flucytosineb that day and responded over 10 weeks.



•42 y/o farm worker in Italy

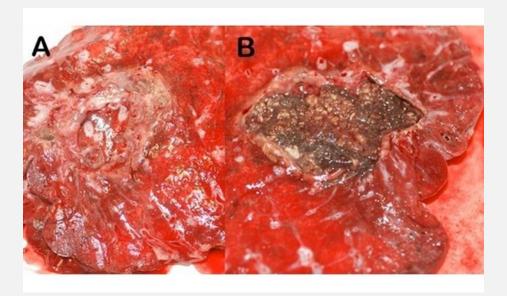
•77 lb weight loss over previous year

•Antibiotics for several months

•Condition worsened

•7 cm x 6.5 cm "vegetative" mass to left upper lobe of lung

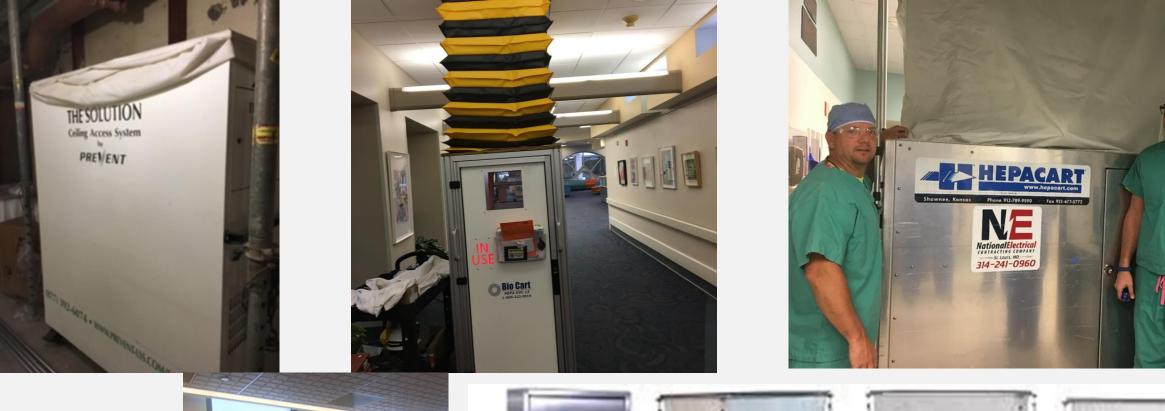
•CT had suggestive halo around lesion, signature of fungus





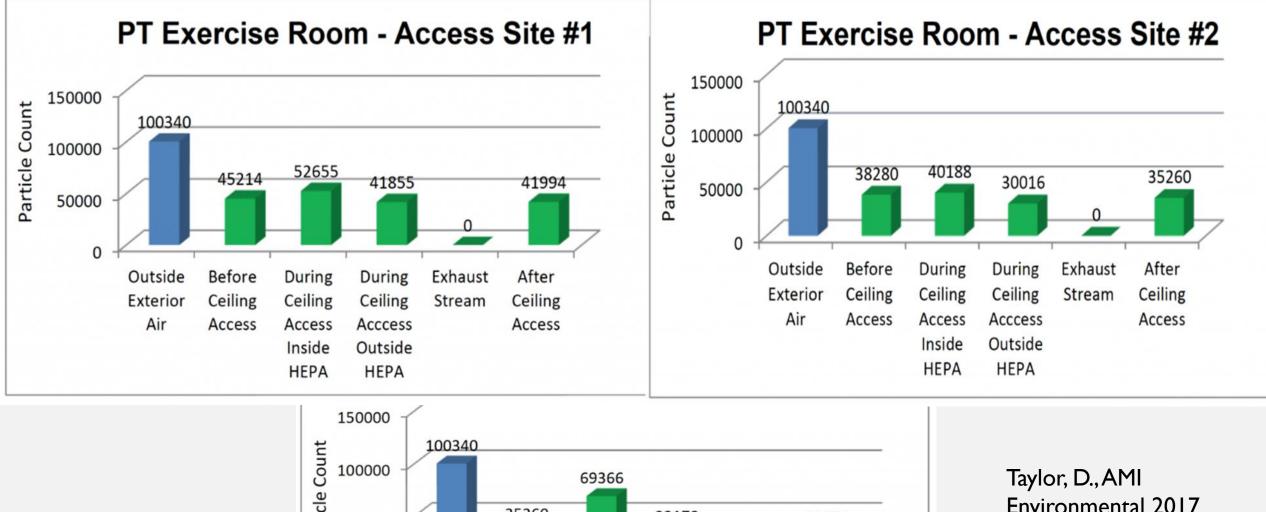


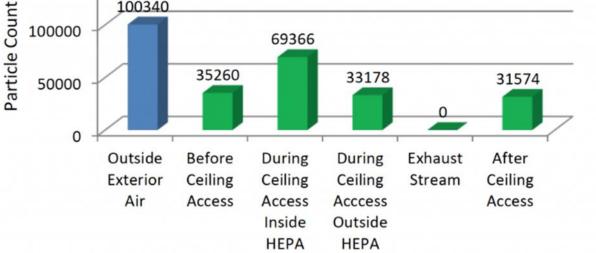
Aspergillus skin lesions at armboard tape sites Photo: Dr. Nancy Khardori, SIUE



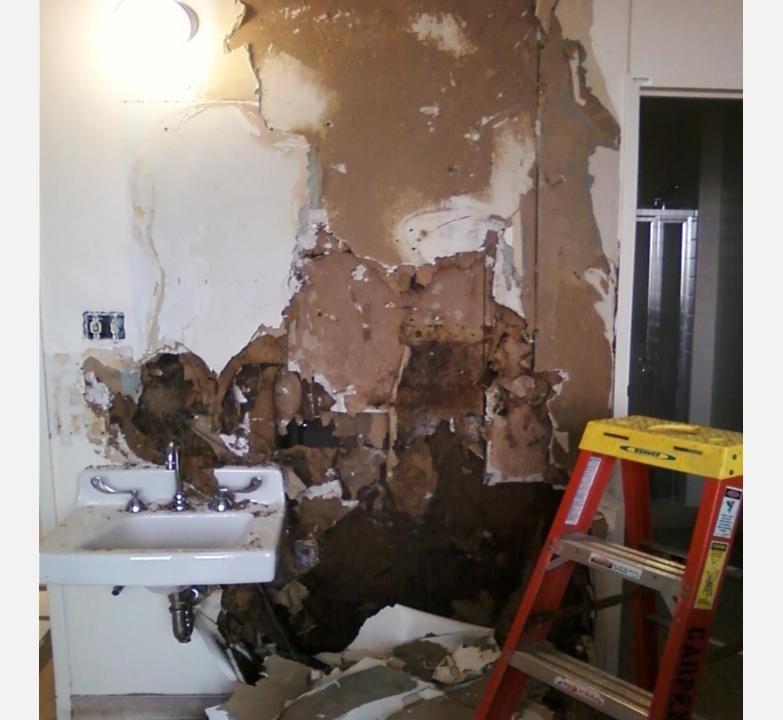




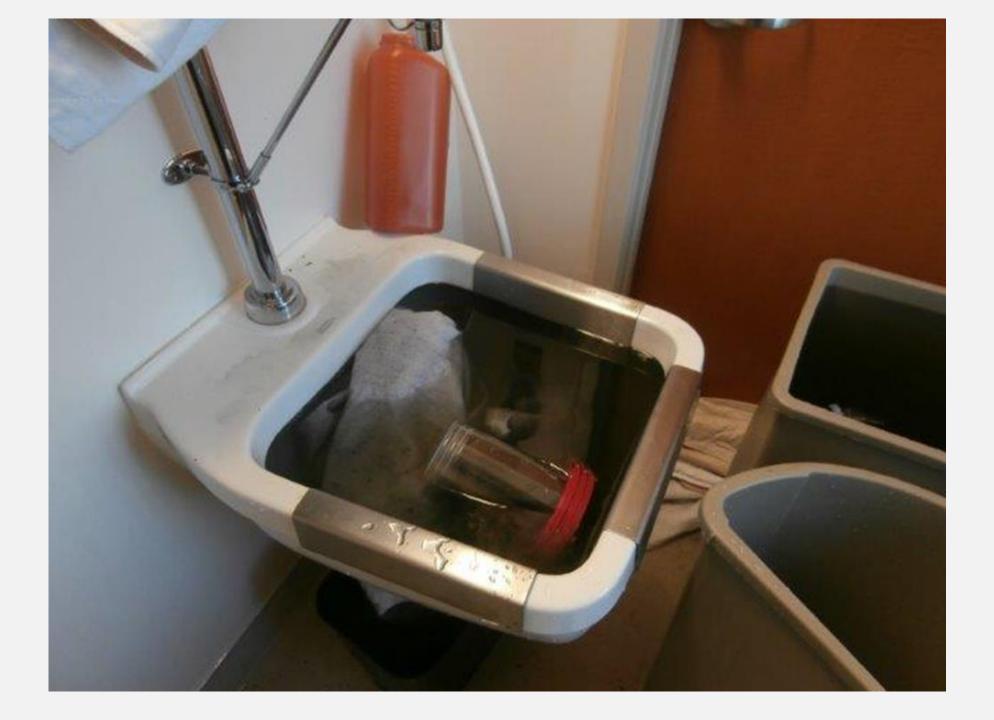


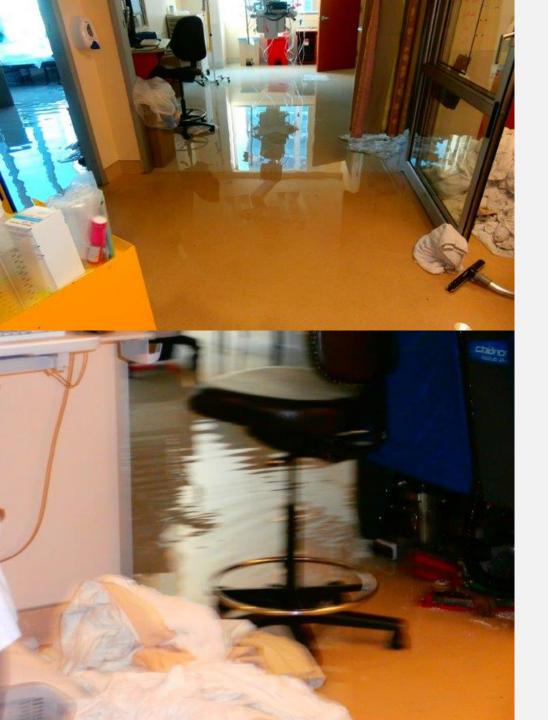


Environmental 2017



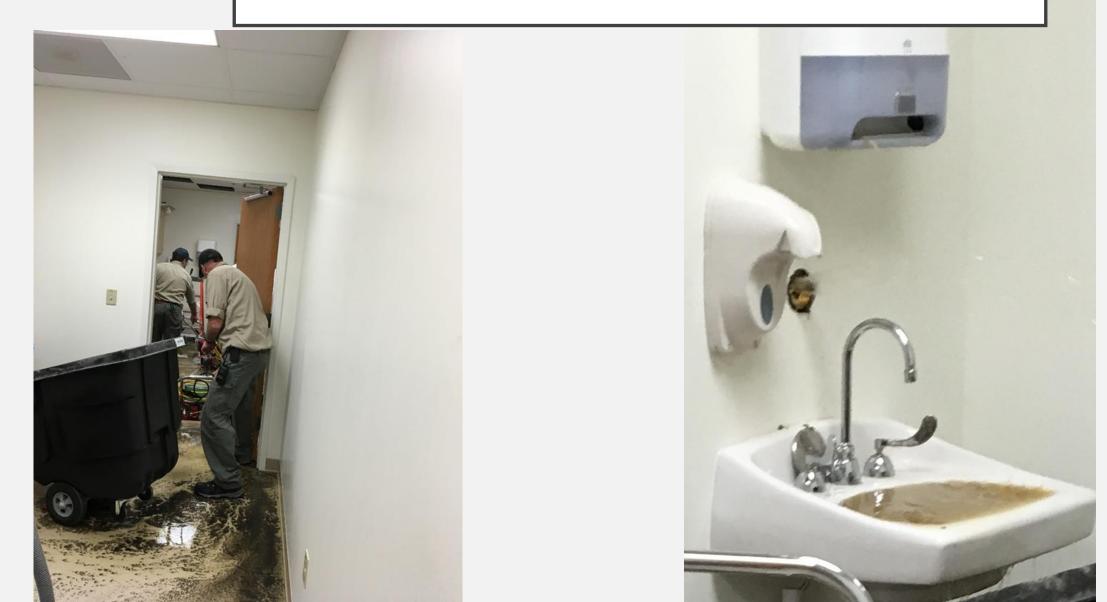








NOT ALWAYS WATER



BOTTOM LINE

- Everyone in this hospital is someone's family
- It could be your family
- Shouldn't we do everything we can to keep them safe?
- If there were no patients here, none of us would be working
- If you took a shortcut that killed someone.....?

REMEMBER

- Hospitals are a much better place now
- Infection Prevention and Facilities must work together
 - Has COVID-19 not made that apparent?
- Patients need to be protected
 - Sometimes staff as well
- Even though we may not speak the same language, we can work together to communicate













QUESTIONS?

Thank you! Loie Couch, RN, BS, CIC, FAPIC Barnes-Jewish Hospital St. Louis Missouri loie.couch@bjc.org