

Learning Activity:

Infection Control in the Headlines



Getting Started

Overview:

This activity invites students to pay close attention to infection control topics that appear in news media. Students will select a news article to present and discuss with the class. You may wish to refine the parameters of what types of infection control topics and news outlets students may pick. To keep presentation topics varied, consider spreading out student presentations over the length of the course instead of having all students present in the same week. This learning activity includes [Learning Activity Instructions](#), [CDC Infection Control Resources](#), and a [Learning Activity Handout](#).

Course Type Recommendation: Nonclinical courses such as health communications, public health, pre-health courses

Underlying Principle: It is important to become critical consumers of news items covering infection control topics to ensure our understanding of infection control practices is timely and relevant.

Learning Objectives:

- Gain experience in identifying news sources that highlight infection control topics.
- Critically analyze news media articles covering infection control topics.

Recommended Rubric(s) for Assessment:

[VALUE Rubrics - Information Literacy | AAC&U \(aacu.org\)](#)

[VALUE Rubrics - Oral Communication | AAC&U \(aacu.org\)](#)



Learning Activity Instructions

1. Students will select a current news article related to infection control based on the parameters you have identified. For example, you may wish to ask students to focus on news articles published within the week of their presentation, focus on specific news sources, or focus on specific infection control topics that connect most directly to the themes of your course.

Instructor Note: You may wish to recommend some news sites to introduce students to credible sources that frequently cover infection control topics, such as:

- [Infection Control Today](#)
- [American Journal of Infection Control Press Releases \(ajicjournal.org\)](https://ajicjournal.org)
- [CDC Newsroom | CDC Newsroom](#)

2. Students should prepare a brief oral presentation on their news article and its connection to the course. The presentation should include components such as:

- An accurate summary of the article
- An analysis of the article

Instructor Note: You may wish to have students complete the provided analysis worksheet or answer a few broader questions such as below:

- Purpose of the article (i.e., to persuade or to inform?)
- Quality of article
 - How was topic framed by the author?
 - What were the strengths?
 - What could be improved?
 - Relevance to infection control?
- 1 to 2 discussion questions for the class that connect the article to infection control topics in the course
- Appropriate visual aids

3. Following presentations, spend time familiarizing students with some of the mechanisms CDC uses to communicate about important infection control topics in health care, such as those listed on the accompanying handout.
4. Consider opportunities to extend class discussion or engage students in additional research such as having students write a reflection paper and providing a deeper analysis on their topic. You may also consider having the class collectively engage in examining supplemental news coverage or scholarly literature on the same infection control topic, comparing how various news outlets frame the same infection control topic. You may also wish to have students consider the implications of the topic for specific segments of the healthcare workforce.

CDC Infection Control Resources

Stay connected with CDC for updates on healthcare infection control:

- [CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#): Prepared by CDC, the MMWR series is the agency's primary vehicle for scientific publication of timely, reliable, authoritative, accurate, objective, and useful public health information and recommendations.
- [Outbreak Investigations in Healthcare Settings](#): Learn about how CDC conducts outbreak investigations in partnership with states and federal agencies, and find information about current safety alerts.
- [CDC Guidelines and Guidance Library](#): Learn about infection control guidelines and recommendations for healthcare settings.
- [CDC News and Updates](#): CDC provides a newsletter subscription service on infection control and healthcare-associated infections, as well as a subscription service to Project Firstline. Learn more about how to subscribe by clicking on the link.
- [CDC's Safe Healthcare Blog](#): Hosted by the CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, this blog explores the science, the people, and the partners who work to ensure the safety of health care in the U.S.
- [CDC's Project Firstline](#): Infection control education and training for the frontline healthcare workforce, featuring adaptable resources in a variety of formats to meet your learning needs.



Learning Activity Handout

Fill in the worksheet to help you with your analysis of the news article.

Who is the author, and what is their background?

Who is the publisher? Why is this publisher interested in infection control?

When was the article written?

What does the article tell me about this topic?

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What sources of information does the article provide? Are they credible?

How credible is the article, and how do I know it's credible?

Can I trust this source to tell me the truth about this topic?

How might different people understand this message differently?

What can I do with this information?



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