

# Infection Control Training

## Overview

- Dust and debris caused by construction work can harm hospital patients.
- The vast majority of the harm is caused by a genus of various fungi and common molds called Aspergillus.
- By taking a few simple, practical measures, you can reduce or eliminate the problem.

## Aspergillus

What is it?

- Aspergillus is a common fungus found in abundance in nature.
- Its spores are too small to be seen by the eye.

Where is it found?

- Aspergillus is found outside, in dirt, in dust, in rotting leaves and in the dust that is in walls and ceilings.
- Aspergillus found inside is the threat to patients.
- It can cause disease in immune suppressed patients and patients with lung conditions.
- It causes a disease called Aspergillosis.
- It lodges in the lungs or sinuses of the patient.
- It is hard to treat and can be fatal.

Patients can be protected by preventing the spread of Aspergillus spores outside of the construction site.

## Project Planning

Conducting the risk assessment found in Specification 01110 key to a successful and safe project. All projects must consider:

- Temporary containments
- Negative air
- Access routes
- Walkoff mats
- Cleaning schedule
- HEPA Units

## Protecting the Worksite

Temporary Containments

- Separates the clean from the dirty areas.
- Provides space that can be put under negative air.
- Containments can either be:
  - existing walls and ceilings
  - fire retardant plastic
  - fire retardant plastic and/or drywall with metal studs
- Containment construction rules at patient care and fire egress areas:
  - one shift – use fire retardant 6 mil poly
  - more than one shift – use drywall on metal studs.
  - replacing a fire rated partition – use drywall on metal studs
  - internal spaces not applying to anything above – use fire retardant 6 mil poly negative air pressure
  - insures dust in the air moves into the containment.
  - can be achieved by blowing air outside with fans and possibly using the building exhaust system.
  - it must be maintained 24/7.
  - negative pressure indicators and alarms ensure maintenance of the negative pressure.

**Planned Access Routes**

- Choose routes that least impact patient areas.
- Contain, cover and/or clean dusty materials and personnel.

**Mobile Containment Units**

- Useful in small isolated locations and activities.
- Be careful of dust when entering and exiting the unit. It is best to use HEPA vacuums to remove dust from the unit and your body.

**Portable HEPA Filtration Units**

- Units placed just inside and outside the site entrance filters the air effectively.
- They can also be used to create negative air as a fan would.

**HEPA Vacuums**

- Take dust out of the air as it works.
- Use to clean entrance areas.
- Must use in a portable containment unit.
- Required use for every infection control project.