

WHAT IS INFECTION CONTROL?



Abigail L. Carlson, MD
Medical Officer – Project Firstline
28 April 2021

DISCLOSURES

- No Disclosures

AGENDA

- Defining Infection Control
- Understanding the “Why”
- COVID-19 and Infection Control: A “Code Response” Analogy
- Where to Go from Here

Infection Control

What comes to
mind?



INFECTION CONTROL IS...?

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Search

[Advanced Search](#)

Infection Control

Guideline Library

COVID-19 Infection Control

Basic Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines

- [Disinfection and sterilization](#)
- [Hand hygiene](#)
- [Environmental infection control](#)
- [Isolation precautions](#)

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

CDC Definition

“Infection control prevents or stops the spread of infections in healthcare settings.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/index.html>



WHY DO WE DO INFECTION
CONTROL?

GOAL OF INFECTION CONTROL

- **To prevent people from getting sick**
- Not to prevent the spread of all germs!
 - Good Germs = Healthy Microbiomes
 - Situation Specific: Certain People, Certain Procedures, Certain Exposures
- Not just patients
 - Healthcare Workers
 - Visitors
 - Anyone entering the building

Infection Control is the
answer to the
question....

“How do we prevent
people from getting
sick?”



INFECTION CONTROL IS THE...

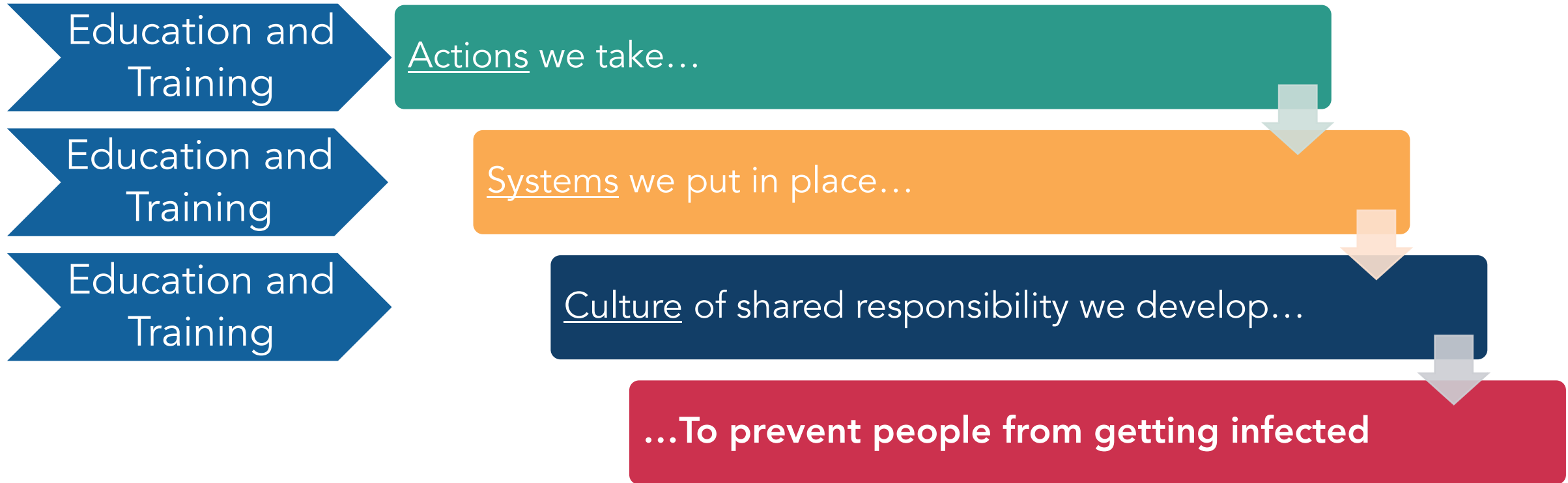
Actions we take...

Systems we put in place...

Culture of shared responsibility we develop...

...To prevent people from getting infected

INFECTION CONTROL IS THE...



COVID-19 AND INFECTION CONTROL: A "CODE RESPONSE" ANALOGY

CODE RESPONSE

- Urgent/Emergent
- Multiple people
- Multiple roles
- “Drop what you’re doing”
- Clear Objective



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

A CODE RESPONSE IS THE...

Actions we take...

Systems we put in place...

Culture of shared responsibility we develop...

...To prevent people from dying

CODE: ACTIONS

- CPR
- Defibrillation
- Intubation
- Medication
- Fluids/Blood
- Vital Signs Monitoring
- Line Insertion



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

COVID-19: ACTIONS

- Masking for source control
- Hand Hygiene
- N95 Respirators
- Gowns and Gloves
- Ventilation
- Physical Distancing
- Cleaning and Disinfection



CODE: SYSTEMS

- Code Team
- Code Pagers
- Resuscitation Algorithms
- Code Buttons by the Bed
- Code Phone Number
- Code Cart



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

COVID-19: SYSTEMS

- Screening and Triage
- Case identification
- Incident Command
- Telemedicine and Telework
- Isolation supply holders/carts
- Sick leave processes
- Infection Prevention Department



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

CODE: CULTURE OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

- Comfort with speaking up across the hierarchies
 - “Anyone can call a code”
 - “If in doubt, call a code”
- Multidisciplinary contribution
- Everyone trained on codes according to their role
- “Drop what you’re doing and help”



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

COVID-19: CULTURE OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

- Multidisciplinary contribution
- “Drop what you’re doing and help”
- Training on infection prevention according to role
- Agreement to work with new systems/actions
- Comfort speaking across hierarchies



We Have
Responded to
the COVID-19
"Code"

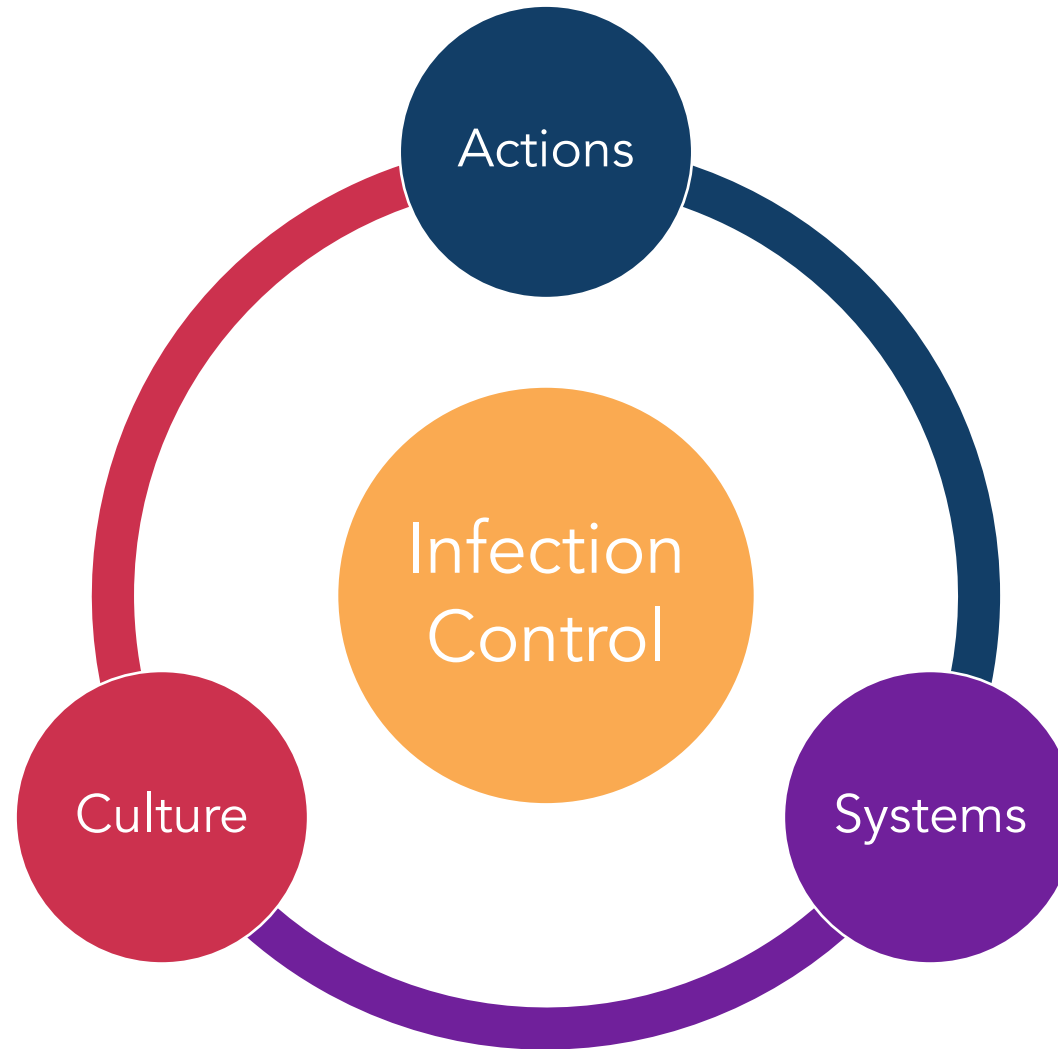
Where do we
go from here?



It's Time
to Debrief



WHAT HAPPENED DURING YOUR COVID-19 RESPONSE?



SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Is it an action, system or culture problem?
 - Not mutually exclusive!
- How do you know what worked and didn't work?
 - Formal or informal data? From whom?
- What do you need to stop doing or restart?
 - The challenge of de-implementation



How can we improve all infection control, not just for COVID-19?

SUMMARY

- Infection control is the **actions we take**, the **systems we put in place** and the **culture of shared responsibility we develop** to prevent and stop the spread of infections in healthcare.
- Just been through the “code” of COVID-19
- Now is the time to debrief
- **An opportunity to strengthen infection control in healthcare for all infections**



Thank You

Questions?

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention