

The Connection™ Marvin's View

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KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS IMPLEMENTS CLEAN TEAMS

For the past few issues we have talked about the dangers of MRSA and other infectious illnesses that can be transmitted in hospitals, schools and other places where there is close personal contact.

If there is any good news related to this serious problem, it is that many of our readers are fighting back and have implemented programs to help control these sometimes antibiotic resistant illnesses. One unique program that came to our attention is from the Kentucky Department of Corrections that instituted special "Clean Teams" to clean and disinfect high contact surfaces in their facilities.



Here is an article on this important project from their recent Newsletter:



Clean Team will do more than keep things Spic and Span

In late 2006 and early 2007, Kentucky Department of Corrections Commissioner John D. Rees, Jerry Kantlehner, Mark Smith and Caryn Stets of PortionPac began exploring an idea that could save the state vast amounts of money and reduce sick time for employees and inmates.

[Continue Reading Inside Corrections Article](#)

Hand washing and high-touch surface cleaning Reduces Illnesses and Cuts Costs

We know that raising awareness about the importance of proper hand washing and increasing the frequency of regular cleaning of high touch surfaces --whether a school desk or a hospital door handle -- works to control the spread of infections and certainly cuts costs associated with medical care, lost time from work, etc. Last month Medicare announced that they will not pay hospitals for the sometimes extensive additional care required to treat nosocomial infections (hospital acquired). It looks like Medicare is trying to get hospitals to address these illnesses that Medicare believes are preventable. Investment of time, setting processes and procedures and using the appropriate products in the right way to help prevent these illnesses may not only reduce the costs of treating the infections, but also additional costs of hospitalization and for employees time off work.

Your Added Bonus....The Clean Syndrome

An ancillary, and highly important, benefit of the process of special cleaning is something we have discussed for forty years. We coined the phrase "The Clean Syndrome" and it is a concept designed to influence people to reduce the volume of dirt they create. When your clients see someone working very hard and effectively to protect their health, they tend to be more cooperative with the janitorial department and don't create unnecessary dirt. In the Kentucky example, Cheryl Million - Public Information Officer of the Kentucky Department of Corrections commented that the inmates were very appreciative of the work the of the Clean Team and some wrote letters of appreciation to the Warden.

And special kudos to the PortionPac team of Mark Smith, Buster Adams, Caryn Stets and Jerry Kantlehner who helped develop the Clean Team Program. We thought you'd like to see one facility's graduation photo.



Blackburn Correctional Complex Clean Team: On the left side Lisa Agee (Secretary for Deputy Warden Allen Long), Lieutenant Eric Sizemore (Sanitation/Fire & Safety Officer) ; THE CLEAN TEAM and on the right Joe Rion (Warden), Rose Sewell (Warden's Secretary) and behind her our Mark Smith who sent this note:

Mark Smith commented: *"While our main objective was to create a healthier environment for both inmates and staff, the understanding that the Warden and his staff are taking steps to improve inmate and officers health has helped make this project a success. I'm excited about what the implementation of this concept could mean to other facilities in the State and around the country."*

Whether you are a manager or a contract cleaner, whether you are in a hospital, office building, industrial plant, school or correctional facility, it is important to communicate with your customers what you are doing for them. The Clean Team concept could work for you and pay big dividends.

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