**UGA IDM Video Transcript: Disinfection in Long Term Care Facilities**

**Introduction:**

*[Newsroom music plays]*

Curt Harris: This video is brought to you by the Georgia Long Term Care Infectious Disease Educational Program funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Civil Monetary Penalty funds.

*[Up-beat music plays]*

Jim:

Let’s face it, germs are everywhere. You can’t see them but they’re all around us.

*[Sneaky music plays]*

*[Germ giggles menacingly]*

They’re sneaky. They’re dangerous….AH HAA!

*[Pew, pew, pew]*

Got ya! *But* germs can be stopped.

Hi, I’m Jim with the Institute for Disaster Management. And in this video, we’re going to take direct aim at Disinfection in Long Term Care Facilities.

*[Western music plays]*

Yeah, we’re gonna clean up this town.

*[Pew, pew, pew]*

**Definitions & Consequences:**

[Up-beat music plays]

Before we get into the nitty-gritty of disinfection, let’s be clear on what that means.

If you take a dry cloth and wipe off a countertop, that’s an example of cleaning. This countertop is not yet safe to eat from but removing the old food is an essential first step.

Take that countertop and thoroughly wipe it down with an EPA-registered disinfectant, and you will remove, or kill, most if not all of the germs and this countertop is now disinfected. Congratulations.

You could take things even further and heat the countertop to a really high heat!

*[Blow torch sound effects]*

That would make it sterilized and completely free of any germs, but it’s not really practical in most situations. Yikes!

For this video, we will be talking mainly about the chemical disinfection of surfaces. So, that’s countertops, bathrooms, beds, tables, chairs, doorknobs and pretty much any other surface that people touch.

Keeping surfaces disinfected in your facility is not just a good idea, it’s actually required. More importantly, there are real health and safety consequences for failing to disinfect properly.

For more on that, we turn to our friend, the incomparable Dr. Doom.

Dr. Patrick O’Neal (Dr. Doom):

There are many examples of problems with lack of disinfection and cleanliness that have led to adverse outcomes. There's one especially egregious, one that occurred in 2012 that I want you to be aware of.

In that year, we had some 753 cases of fungal meningitis that occurred over just a few weeks. It involved 20 different states. After an investigation by the CDC, FDA, and the health departments in those 20 states, they found that there was a connection.

Every one of those cases had received an injection of a steroid that had been put together at a compound pharmacy, a single pharmacy, and when they went to that pharmacy and took swabs of the floor, the walls, the table tops, everywhere, they found huge amounts of a black mold and some astragelis, another fungus.

All of which had also been identified in those patients. Of the 753, over a hundred of them actually died. So yeah, I guess I deserve the title Dr. Doom for saying things like this.

But the message should be clear, this is no fantasy this is a real story. It actually happened and what it says is that if we don't clean and disinfect properly, we may actually see illness and even death.

**Types of Disinfection:**

Jim:

So, we can all see the need to keep things clean. Now, let’s look at the best ways to disinfect at your facility.

*[Germ giggles menacingly]*

Oh, this guy again. You just don’t learn, do you?

*[Germ shrieks]*

*[Pew, pew, pew]*

One of the most common means of disinfecting surfaces is to spray germ-killing chemicals onto the surface and then wipe it down with a cloth.

This spray and wipe method is quick and easy and familiar to most of us. It’s a good way to quickly disinfect areas like toilets, sinks, countertops, tables and more.

For smaller areas, consider using disinfectant wipes. They are very effective and good for over-bed tables, faucet handles, and door knobs.

It’s important to be familiar with your facility’s policies and procedures for disinfecting shared items such as blood glucose meters, walkers, and other medical equipment that sees a lot of hands-on action.

*[Up-beat rock music plays]*

Lab assistants:

Hands-on Action! Jazz Hands!

Back to Jim:

Oookayyy. Moving on. The next big gun in your germ-killing arsenal is good old-fashioned bleach. This is often used for mopping floors and it does a great job of that.

Keep in mind that all of these disinfectants are chemicals designed to kill germs and they can be pretty strong so be careful with how you use them.

Wear gloves, eye-protection, and any other personal protective equipment recommended by the manufacturer, and always follow the directions carefully.

What if you wanted to disinfect a resident’s entire room in one shot? Behold the power of fog!

*[Ship’s horn sound effect plays]*

A disinfectant fogger is a good way to treat a room all at once. Some models you can place in an area, leave the room, and then set off remotely.

Other options include snazzy handheld and backpack sprayers. These are ideally suited for disinfecting large areas. You’ll need to clear those areas of people and suit up in the manufacturer-recommended protective gear to use it but they are very effective.

Many of these systems spray a solution which has been electrostatically charged. This means when you spray a table in a room, the particles stick to the underside of the table to disinfect it.

Here’s a brilliant idea, UV Lighting! A variety of systems are available from handheld, whole room systems, or area UV lights. All of these kill germs that come into contact with the UV light for a period of time. Keep in mind hidden areas such as the underside of a table or bed will not be disinfected unless the UV light is positioned properly.

None of these methods are specifically required to meet regulatory guidelines. Your policies and procedures must outline which methods will be used, by whom, and how often. For additional resources and information about disinfection systems, you can contact your healthcare coalition.

**Considerations & Safety**

Now that we’ve gone over some of the different ways to disinfect, here’s a few important considerations.

Identify what germs you need to kill and be sure you’re buying products that will do the job. Killing SARS-coV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19, is a lot easier than killing C.diff.

Read the product label carefully. Notice what surfaces it can be used on. If the germ isn’t listed on the label, it likely doesn’t kill it.

Be aware of your disinfectant’s Contact Time, Dwell Time, Kill Time, or Wet Time - they all mean the same thing and that’s how long a disinfectant needs to sit, or dwell, in contact with germs to be effective.

A good practice is to write this time on a label and stick it on the disinfectant bottle along with the date and any other relevant information.

A common mistake people make is spraying a disinfectant and then immediately wiping it off before the chemicals can really do their job.

*[Super slow-motion voice]*

Sometimes you just need to slow down a little itty-bit.

*[Normal voice]*

Here’s another big mistake that happens way too much.

*[Deep voice effect]*

Dangerous repackaging.

*[Woman gasps]*

Whenever possible, please keep disinfectants in their original containers. Never use a food or condiment bottle to hold chemicals. That is a disaster waiting to happen. Don’t do it.

Lab assistant:

*[Spits out liquid]*

Most disinfectants have a limited amount of time before they start to break down and become less effective, even if they are unopened. Those that have been opened, stored improperly, or mixed with water can break down even sooner. So, keep track of your supplies.

It’s really important to follow the manufacturer’s instructions when using disinfectants. You could damage certain plastics, cause metal pitting on faucets, or even suffer a chemical burn if you’re not careful.

So, always read the instructions and wear your PPE.

Looking good! Up high! No? Really?

Did you know that there is guidance available with step-by-step procedures for exactly how to clean a room?

The short version is high-to-low and clean-to-dirty but you need to be familiar with the best practices for cleaning a resident’s room based on different situations. It’s too much to cover in our video but we have included resources for you below.

Be familiar with your facility’s established procedures for disinfection including exactly when to disinfect, how often to disinfect, and what chemicals and equipment to use.

**Conclusion:**

[Whip cracks]

[Western music plays]

Thanks for watching, y’all. We hope you’ve learned some helpful information about Disinfection in Long Term Care Facilities. It’s been a blast, right?

*[Pew, pew]*

You can learn lots more and find some helpful links at our website.

*[Germ giggles menacingly]*

Uh-oh, look who’s back. Awww. I can’t do it. Let’s be friends. Come on over here, Germy, and give old Jim a big, disgusting hug!

Oh, I instantly regret this. I’m think I’m going to be sick.

*[Upbeat Western outro music plays]*