What is Infection Control?

Historically, American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) have experienced disproportionate mortality rates from emerging infectious disease threats, including the 2009 influenza A (H1N1) pandemic. COVID-19 has predictably caused disproportionate impacts on Tribal communities, and AI/AN people continue to experience a higher risk of infection and COVID-19–related mortality. Tribal communities have implemented infection control measures within their Tribal health systems to reduce the spread of COVID–19 and protect their most vulnerable. But you might ask, what exactly is infection control – and what is its goal?

What is infection control?

The basic concept of infection control is to prevent or stop the spread of infections in healthcare settings.

What are some infection control recommendations?

• Follow proper hand hygiene procedures.
• Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
• Encourage physical distancing– limit visitors and monitor patient flow.
• Clean surfaces frequently with recommended disinfectants.
• Monitor yourself and your patients for symptoms of an infection and never come to work sick.

What is the GOAL of infection control?

The goal of infection control is to keep people from getting sick.

Why is infection control important for Tribal healthcare?

Infection control measures can prevent the spread of infectious diseases and keep Tribal communities safe.
They can:

• Protect Tribal healthcare workers from getting sick.
• Protect Tribal members we take care of from getting sick.
• Keep Tribal elders from getting sick.
• Ensure a healthy future for Tribal youth.

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