

Mini Drill for Environmental Services

Here is how to set up the exercise:

After exercise planners have identified exactly what part of your plan you want to test, write at least one objective. Then, write a simple scenario. Base your questions on that scenario. Exercise planners will deliver this message along with a list of questions and/or tasks to the Environmental Services Manager.

Example: You determined that you want to test polices for your infectious disease exposure plan.

Objective: At the end of this exercise the Environmental Services staff will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of the infectious disease exposure plan with a Norovirus incident. Staff will don appropriate PPE and clean up simulated vomitus (made with oatmeal) following hospital protocol.

Scenario: *Environmental Services is called to the dining room area where a patient has vomited on himself and the floor. The patient told the nurses that his mother is "in the hospital with some kind of stomach thing." She is in isolation. He thinks he might have the same thing she does. He told the nurse he has really bad stomach cramps and diarrhea. The nurse told you to assume he has norovirus.*

Instructions: Environmental services staff will answer the enclosed questions. Then return this envelope to the exercise planner _____.

Questions:

What is your first concern? _____

What precautions will you take as you begin this clean up? _____

How will you dispose of the material you clean up from the floor? _____

How will you wash yourself and your clothes afterwards? _____

Do you feel that you have adequate training to take care of this incident? _____

After the exercise, examine the responses. Be sure to follow up with the participants. If you received incorrect answers, address those with education or training. People will be curious about how well they did. Show appreciation for their participation and remind them of how important it is for your facility to be vigilant about potential disasters.

Finally: Use the information you gathered to make any necessary changes to your policies or plans. The exercise is not finished until you have USED what you learned to improve your response plans. If further training is need, or equipment needs to be purchased, then create an improvement plan. That plan should state exactly what needs to be done, by whom, and when.

Follow-through is essential to a successful exercise. If the exercise revealed some significant issues, then after you have completed your corrective actions, do it again! Then you'll know if your improvement plan worked!

Remember: Plan, Train, Exercise, Evaluate! Then do it all again!