



## Q & A · Infection Control, Infection Prevention: Is your Foundation on a Solid Rock or Floating Down River?

**Q: Do you have any references as to where to obtain signage or posters for communicating infection control measures that may be in place in our centers?**

**A:** Yes, On the CDC website, under Infection Control Basics and Transmission Based Precautions, one can find examples of CDC posters to print.

**Q: Can you recommend resources to review that would help us to enhance our in-house QAPI programs?**

**A:**

1. Yes, Including your vendors - such as Pharmacy services as they will naturally open up opportunities for you. Nurse consultants and Pharmacist consultants come with a “tool kit” of their own and can offer assistance. Between Antibiotic Stewardship Programs and Educational offerings, they may be able to help you grow your QAPI program rather quickly.
2. CMS, CMS has multiple resources at cms.org that speak to the value and utilization of QAPI
3. Contact your local Quality Assurance partner. In my area we work closely with Mountain Pacific, and they are a tremendous resource.

**Q: Where can I find resources for auditing Housekeeping and cleaning protocols?**

**A:** The CDC has a wonderful tool kit for evaluating environmental cleaning. It can be accessed by going to the CDC website, Under Health Care Associated Infections, go to Preventing Health Care Associated Infections, then Tool kit. There you will find access to an Environmental Cleaning Evaluation Worksheet, and Guidelines for Cleaning among many other resources.

**Q: Can you explain the difference between Isolation and Quarantine?**

**A:**

1. **Isolation** separates an ill individual from others in order to prevent spread of an infection. (Person is sick)
2. **Quarantine** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. These people may have been exposed to a disease and do not know it, or they may have the disease but do not show symptoms. It is important to understand your incubation periods when quarantining. For ex, if you are only quarantining an exposed patient for 48 hours, but COVID has up to a 14 day incubation period you are not completing quarantine and ultimately risk others to exposure.