

## MDS Alert

### Reader Question: Clean These Surfaces, Too

**Question:** Our janitorial staff know to clean doorknobs and other high-touch surfaces in our facility. What else do we need to keep in mind?

Florida Subscriber

**Answer:** Make sure staff are cleaning high-touch surfaces frequently, says **Lieutenant Commander Kara Jacobs Slifka, MD, MPH**, a member of the U.S. Public Health Service and a medical officer from the **COVID-19 Response Clinical Team**.

But also focus on medical equipment that you may use on multiple residents, like blood pressure cuffs, Hoyer lifts, or "any kind of equipment that might be moved from resident to resident, or possibly in different locations within your facility," she says.

If you're monitoring residents' temperatures and pulse oximetry, disinfect that equipment, too. "You know you don't want to be actually potentially spreading something while doing that .... You don't want this monitoring program to actually be more of a problem than it solves," says **Brendan Jackson, MD, MPH, CDR**, medical epidemiologist from the COVID-19 response clinical team at the **Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)** in Atlanta, in a Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity call focused on COVID-19 updates for long-term care facilities.