

# Email Newsletter

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"We shape our buildings;  
Thereafter, they shape us."  
- Sir Winston Churchill



## ASK the Expert?

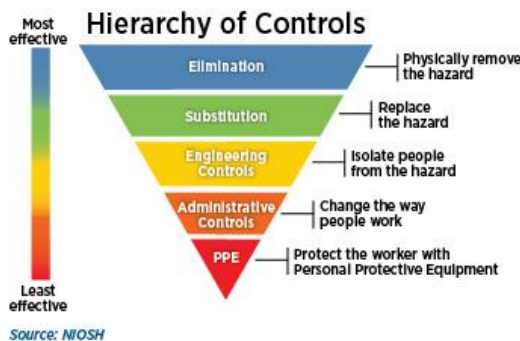
Q: What are two toxic microbes that are difficult to control in healthcare facilities?

A: Gram-negative bacteria in sterile pharmacy preparations (think of endotoxin); B: Legionella biofilms in potable water systems and cooling towers (think shower mist inhalation).



Occupational Safety and Health Administration

OSHA model for control of exposure to hazardous agents.



## Environment of Care (EOC)-Part 1

Facilities and Infection Control professionals should be aware of culturable test for *Aspergillus* and drug resistant bacteria as an ICRA component, particularly when construction is next to high-risk patient areas. Both organisms are linked to HAIs. The key is to continue ICRA checklists with a renewed willingness to test cleanliness assumptions. If infection clusters occur, expect OSHA to reference microbial testing as a best practice under the General Duty Clause 5A1. The fact is that ICRA classifications sometimes need to be backed up by data. Get out in front if possible.



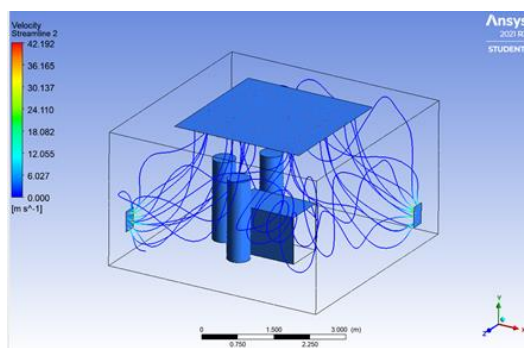
Photo credit to EMSL Microbiology Laboratories, October 2022. Beyond Code Minimum – *Aspergillus* Nosocomial Culture & Vancomycin Resistant Bacteria.



## Engineered Safety for Intubation? – Use HVAC Controls

The primary HVAC control in the operating room is laminar airflow from the ceiling toward the floor. Ceiling diffusers push air down thru the sterile field away from the breathing zone to exit at floor exhausts. See the diagram below. This engineering control is more protective than surgical masks. Before creating patient aerosols, validate this engineering protection is working in the OR.

Photo credit to Ansys Software, OR Model, October 2022.



**Smart Design:**  
Dallas Fort-Worth  
Skylink train connects  
all the terminals at DFW.



Building materials like Low-E glass coated with metal oxide can repel cell phone signals. "The call just dropped?"