

Teach staff about T Zone (facial mucus membranes) while administering Flu vaccine to improve your facility's "culture of safety".

A few simple steps is all it takes to demonstrate to the staff about cross contamination of the T Zone (facial mucus membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth). Awareness of their own personal habit is key for their own personal health and wellness. If we truly want to create a "culture of safety" in our health care facilities we must function like a team acknowledging each other's strengths and weaknesses. So with respect to respiratory infection prevention and colonization we need a broader approach. So it makes sense to take advantage of your annual flu vaccine administration to complete the "health and safety" for both personnel and patients. Many healthcare workers do not seem to know about role of facial mucus membranes(T Zone) in the spread of respiratory infection. Remember we should not care for patients when we are sick.

1. Ask "What is your habit" when it comes to touching their facial mucus membranes(T Zone)?
2. Observe them (for 1-3 minutes), see if they breach their facial mucus membranes(T Zone).
3. Offer to give them a T Zone sticker If they acknowledge having difficulty avoiding touching their facial mucus membranes that they can take home and share with their family and friends.
4. If they admit to having difficulty not touching the T Zone ask them if they would wear the Healthshield for 5-10 minutes. This will increase their awareness about the frequency they attempt to touch their T Zone.
5. Ask the staff to observe their peers, in order to help them, to see how often they breach the T Zone. If your facility supported a "culture of safety" we would acknowledge we need to help our peers and coworkers to improve their own personal safety. After all, why would anyone consciously inoculate themselves with Flu, ILI, C.diff, MRSA, VRE or CRE
6. During the next in-service ask them to wear a Healthshield or utilize Henry's Retraining Device
7. Or have some fun and apply "Germ potion" to your staff members' hands. After 10 minutes shine a black light on their face to see if there is evidence of cross contamination.