

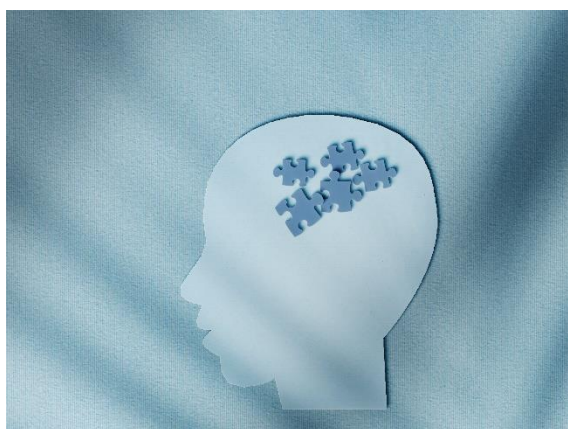
Infection prevention escape room training and kits: An engaging, immersive learning experience for frontline healthcare workers



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CATEGORY: **Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC)**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health's Project Firstline adopted the concept of recreational escape rooms to deliver an immersive infection prevention learning experience for frontline healthcare staff. The escape rooms have been very popular and have served as a strong tool to promote best-practice infection prevention concepts across the state.



The "What"

The Pennsylvania Department of Health's Project Firstline (PA PFL) is a project that is designed to promote foundational knowledge on IPC for all types of frontline healthcare workers. PA PFL adopted the concept of recreational escape rooms and incorporated the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) PFL infection prevention escape room education into on-site training options for facilities across Pennsylvania. To meet the demands of requests for escape room training, PA PFL partnered with the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Resiliency, Infrastructure Supports, and Empowerment (LTC-RISE) teams to promote and conduct escape rooms across the state. PA PFL trained the LTC-RISE teams on how to conduct escape room training, complete with facilitation guides and tips to help create the best experience for participants. Additionally, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for the Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) funding was used to provide each PA PFL team member with an escape room kit to ensure facilities across the state would have access to escape room training if requested.



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Through this project, the PA PFL team has been able to develop **strong collaborative relationships** with LTC-RISE partners to **promote best-practice infection prevention concepts** to facilities across the state.

The “So What”

To date, 178 escape room trainings have been conducted at facilities across Pennsylvania.

Starting in the Spring of 2023, PA PFL began promoting escape room training as one of the options available to facilities through the PA PFL newsletter, as well as at conferences. PA PFL decided to use this as an opportunity to promote additional infection prevention and control training with facilities. A process was developed that when a request for escape room training request was received, a team member would connect with facility administration to schedule the training and review logistics. To support the successful completion of the escape room, the PFL team recommends a brief introductory PFL training to provide participants with an understanding of the concepts that will be needed to pass the escape room. This approach incorporates numerous content delivery methods which enhances understanding of infection prevention concepts.

The “Now What”

There continues to be a growing demand for PA PFL escape room training. With ELC funding, PA PFL was able to purchase software that will allow the team to develop a virtual, web-based escape room that could be utilized in facilities that may be unable to have individuals on-site. We anticipate this multi-tiered approach to infection prevention

and control training will help to increase participant interest. Additionally, through this project, the PA PFL team has been able to develop strong collaborative relationships with LTC-RISE partners to promote best-practice infection prevention concepts to facilities across the state.

Key contributors to this project include Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology, Division of Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention, PA Project Firstline team; Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Resiliency, Infrastructure Supports, and Empowerment (LTC-RISE) teams.