

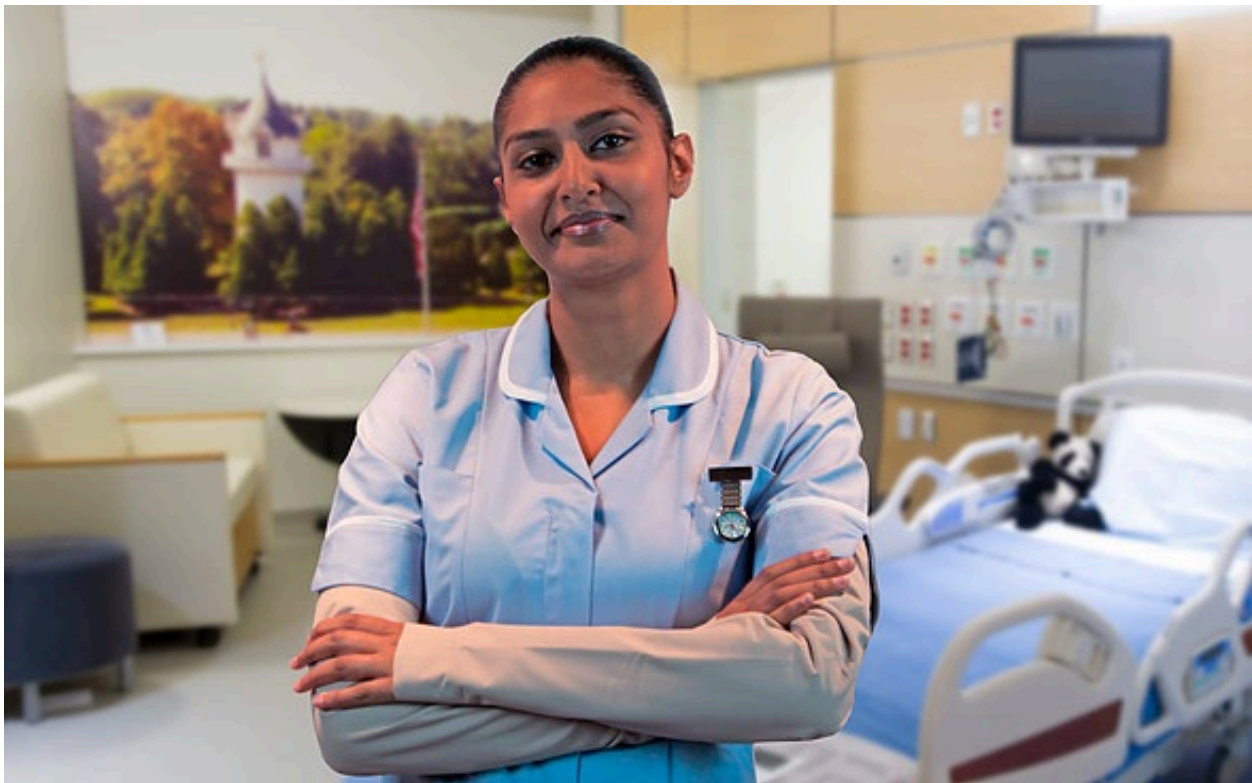
# STANDARD DEVIATIONS: Risky Business

Greetings,

Is the paradigm for biosafety the same in every part of your hospital? Not likely.

So, what is the difference? Well, not everybody thinks that everything they touch could be infectious. Sure, we do, but other people in other areas of your facility are more trusting.

We're witnessing a change in that thinking with coronavirus. **Everyone is getting on board with what laboratories have been doing all along: universal safety protocols.** About damn time.



{Here's the old picture of your friendly nurse, right? Mask? Gloves? Gown? Nah...}

Practices in patient care up to this point in time have been pretty relaxed for a huge swath of our profession. From the E.D. to the floors to out-patient clinics to long-term care, we've disregarded PPE and some basic safety steps for too long.

Unfortunately, we'll look back at these settings and realize that our casual ideas about biosafety are the drivers of hospital-acquired-infection (HAI), antimicrobial resistance, and community



spread of disease. On the other hand, we'll also discover that SARS-CoV2 brought us around to recognizing the dangers of pathogens in our everyday and "normal" environments.

The paradigm shift that we're experiencing in biosafety awareness is phenomenal. Of course, the phenomenon is the pandemic. It has taken millions of infections and hundreds of thousands of deaths to awaken our understanding that biosafety matters.



{The new normal. I'm sure they're still smiling.}

Last week, I mentioned the fact that we don't yet know the true extent of Healthcare Worker (HCW) infections of COVID-19. What we do know is that thousands of HCW have been affected and hundreds have died in the US alone. The risks for this group are evident around the globe. And yet, we know that it's imperative that hospitals be the place for safety and not increased risk.

And, to that point, we're seeing an awareness reflected in the response. In every corner of the hospital system, the understanding of risk is being recalibrated and mitigated as never before. Suddenly, biosafety makes sense?

Healthcare is risky business! But ... it always has been, just ask the lab.

Have a great week and be safe,

Bryan



