

GERMS CAN LIVE IN DIRT.

WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread
and protect patients



- Germs live in dirt and soil. The fungus *Aspergillus*, a common germ that can live in dirt, can cause serious illness in some patients who don't have strong immune systems or whose lungs are damaged.
- Building construction can send dirt and the germs in it into the air, which can then get inside a healthcare facility.
- Smaller construction and maintenance projects inside a building – like taking out parts of a wall, removing ceiling tiles, or renovating a room – can also create dust that has germs in it.

Germs That Live in Dirt

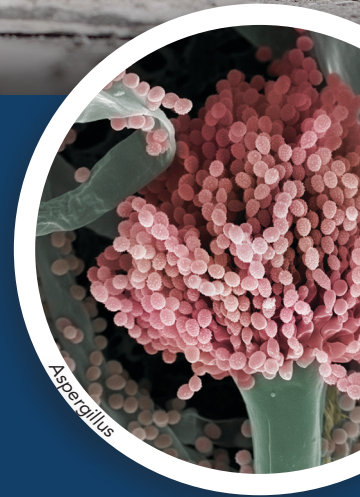
- *Aspergillus*
- *Cryptococcus*

Healthcare Tasks Involving Dirt

- Construction
- Renovation

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Ventilation
- Using barriers and other types of construction containment
- Hand hygiene



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/PROJECTFIRSTLINE