

T Zone Tool Kit

Contents:

- 1 T Zone Poster
- 10 Healthshields
- 1 fingernail brush
- 100 T Zone stickers
- 1 Retraining Device
- *Optional: Glogerm and black light

Process:

- 1) Display the T Zone poster where you are administering the Flu vaccine. Explain the significance of the facial mucus membranes in the respiratory infection pathway.
- 2) Show a fingernail brush reiterating that everyone should use one each day.
- 3) Demonstrate the Healthshield as a safety device to prevent one from touching their facial mucus membranes (T Zone). This can cause colonization or outright infection. If they have a severe habit of breaching their T Zone you could offer to give them a Healthshield to practice at home or work.
- 4) In addition if they would like some additional help in curbing their T Zone habit offer them a T Zone sticker(s) to share with their family to further the benefit.
- 5) Many healthcare facilities are mandating that if staff does not get the flu vaccine they must wear a mask during the season. However, this leaves the mucus membranes of the eyes exposed as a perfect repository of an unwanted organism, as Michael Bell MD of CDC reiterated in May at an APIC Webinar about MERSCoV. It will also help with Ebola prevention.
- 6) During a staff In-service, take the opportunity to use the operant conditioning tool, Henry's Retraining Device, to apply peer pressure techniques. Or staff members can practice wearing a Healthshield to improve self-awareness. Another way, for fun, is to apply Glogerm to their hands and see if they cross contaminate their face during the In-service by shining a blacklight on their face to see if there are any marks.
- 7) A more continuous monitoring effect is to enlist the Hawthorne Effect by having the CEO announce to staff to watch and comment on the other staffs' T Zone behavior, including their own and reply with a "thank you for the help". Now that will promote a "culture of safety" by improving communication and levity in the workplace.

*Patient Safety, Teamwork and Infection Prevention are all rolled up into this Hand Awareness strategy that starts with the "teaching moment" of the flu vaccine administration. Let's make hospital's "patient safe" and improve our own health status at the same time. After all, we all may end up in a hospital at some point in time.