



Keeping the Nursing Home Environment Safe



Germs that can make us sick (pathogens) can hide and thrive in a nursing home environment.

A nursing home must ensure a safe “homelike” environment, one that is clean, comfortable, and allows residents to receive care and services safely and maximizes a resident’s independence.

A homelike environment includes one that allows resident personal items such as photos, artwork, and even personal furnishings. This supports the overall well-being of residents.



Resident and Family Action Steps

- You can help your nursing home community feel like home while also making sure it a safe, and clean place by:
 - Having personal items which make you feel happy and comfortable
 - Keeping personal items stored and uncluttered to prevent falls
 - Asking about and observing clean and disinfection practices

Nursing Home Environment Checklist

- I am encouraged by the nursing home to have personal items that make me feel at home and I am provided a place to store my items.
- The lighting and temperature are comfortable, allowing me to do the things I like to do everyday.
- Items and surfaces that are used in my care and in the nursing home which are touched frequently are cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Staff can explain to me who cleans and disinfects items and surfaces, how this is done, how often it is done, and how this process is monitored.

Want to know more? Contact [your nursing home advocate](#) or send an email to ICARE@unthsc.edu

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number UTQHP28735. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of the Health Resources and Services Administration or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.