

# Career Spotlight



CDC NERD Academy



## Infection Prevention Specialist

An infection prevention specialist helps develop ways to detect, prevent, and control the spread of disease in healthcare settings which helps keep patients and staff safe. They reduce the spread of disease by collecting and analyzing data on healthcare-associated infections, identifying outbreaks, and using appropriate prevention strategies to prevent and control further spread. Infection prevention specialists are like disease detectives for specific settings such as hospitals.



Meet Ivy, an infection prevention specialist

### Who do they work with?

Infection prevention specialists collaborate with health care providers and different public health professionals, including epidemiologists, microbiologists, laboratory scientists, state and local public health officials, healthcare providers, health educators, and communication specialists.

### Where do they work?

Infection prevention specialists work in different settings, including health care facilities, hospitals, clinics, and long-term-care facilities. They also work in local and state health departments, and federal and international public health agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

### What skills do they use?

Infection prevention specialists have skills in problem solving, communication, leadership, and time management. They are flexible, collaborative, and adaptable in a fast-paced environment.

### What qualifications do they need?

Most infection prevention specialists have a registered nurse (RN) license and certifications in infection prevention and control. Some have advanced degrees (MD, DO, or PhD) and certification or special training.

