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## Concerns rise about medical waste washing ashore in Palm Beach

"I visited Palm Beach island this weekend from Chicago and there was BIOHAZARD medical waste littered all over the beach," Tresa Veitia recently wrote in an email to the state health department and South Florida news organizations. She included pictures of a vial of blood and an empty vaccine bottle that she had picked up on private beaches near Dunbar Road and Atlantic Avenue. [READ MORE](#)



## Bed bugs, bite risks and healthcare facilities: What every manager needs to know

By Paul Curtis / Special to Healthcare Facilities Today January 13, 2017



After decades of relative obscurity, bed bugs (*Cimex lectularius*) re-emerged in a dramatic fashion, and infestations have become increasingly common. Bed bugs can now be found in almost every part of the country, and in any place that humans frequent. This includes environments that may not typically be associated with bed bugs, such as public transportation, workplace settings, theaters, and even health care facilities. Unlike other pests, bed bugs are not a product of sanitation concerns. However, health care facilities experience significant human traffic, and contain personal belongings, equipment, furnishings and décor that provide harborage near potential hosts. This combination puts health care facilities in the "high risk" category for bed bug infestations. [READ MORE](#)

## Studies Back Hospital Cleaners' Call For Increased Staffing To Prevent Hospital Infection Deaths

With provincial funding for Ontario hospital services falling for years, understaffing is getting worse in hospital environmental services, with reports of layoffs and cuts occurring regularly, a survey of front line cleaning staff has found. Concerns are growing among environmental service workers that Ontario hospitals do not have the capacity and enough cleaning staff to keep bedrails, mattresses, taps, door handles and chairs sterilized and bacteria free.

In the fall of 2016, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) completed a survey of 421 hospital housekeeping staff from over 60 hospitals right across Ontario. Hospital-Acquired Infections: Stop Preventable Deaths, that melds the survey findings with recent public health agency and other research reports, was released in New Liskeard today. [READ MORE](#)



Joe Delloiacovo  
732.228.8681  
[joed@medassureservices.com](mailto:joed@medassureservices.com)

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