

# The Risks of Home Laundering Facility- Provided Scrubs

---

TRSA • 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 200, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 • 877-770-9274 • TRSA.ORG



# Speakers



Scott Delin  
VP, Indirect Healthcare  
Sales  
Fashion Seal Healthcare  
Mobile: (610) 442-0880  
[SDelin@FashionSealHealthcare.com](mailto:SDelin@FashionSealHealthcare.com)



Dyan Troxel, MSN, RN  
Director of Clinical  
Education, HandCraft  
Linen Services  
Mobile: (804) 543-6536  
[dyantroxel@handcraftservices.com](mailto:dyantroxel@handcraftservices.com)



Liz Barber, BSN, RN  
Clinical Educator  
HandCraft Linen Services  
Mobile: (919) 791-6069  
[lizbarber@handcraftservices.com](mailto:lizbarber@handcraftservices.com)

# Learner Objectives

At the end of the webinar, the learner will be able to:

- List two risks of home-laundering scrub attire
- Compare reasons why healthcare-certified laundry facilities are equipped to provide hygienically clean scrub attire versus home laundering
- Advocate for staff to follow scrub laundering policies/ guidelines to keep patients safe

# Any disclosures?

- The speakers have no conflicts to disclose.



Hi!

# The Risks of Home Laundering Facility- Provided Scrubs

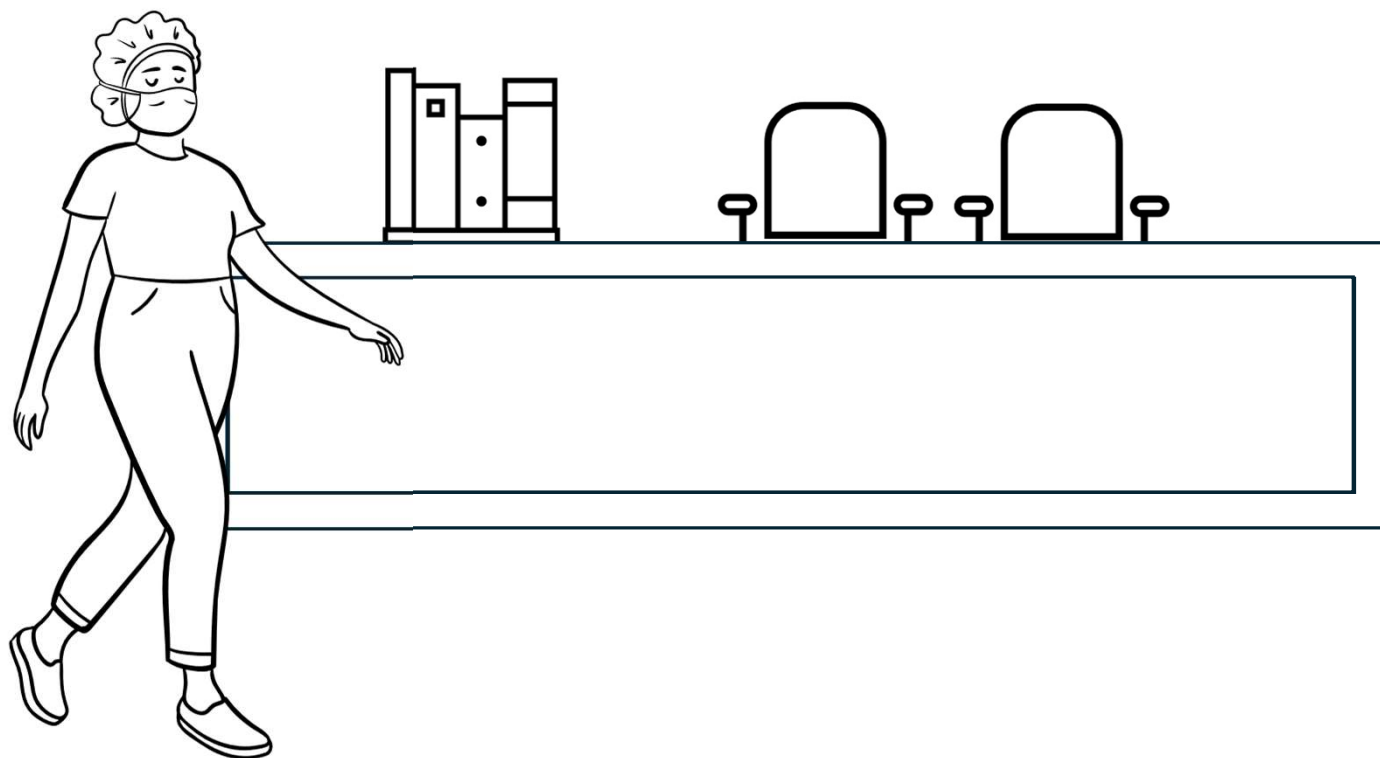
---

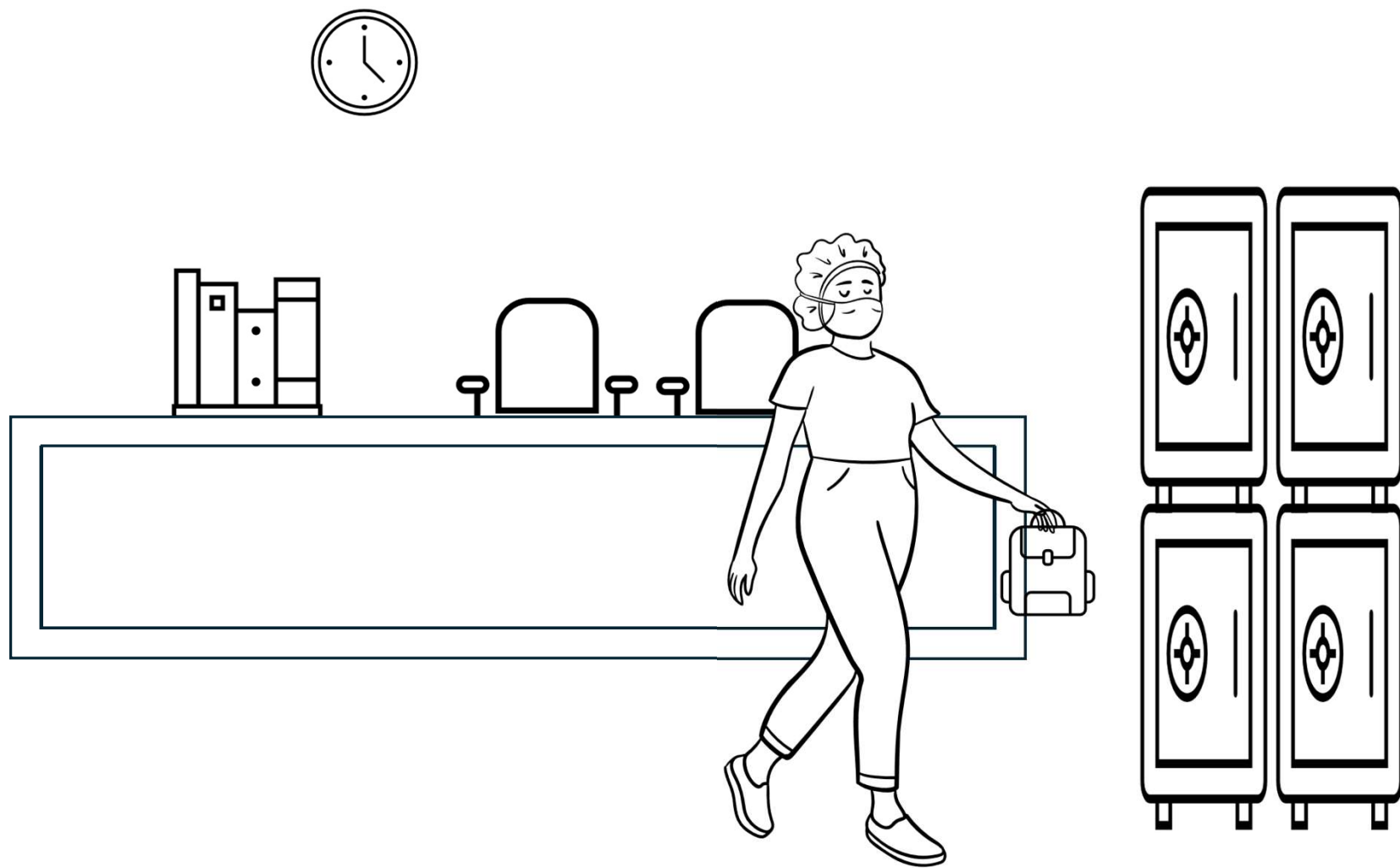
A Typical Day in the OR

Dyan Troxel

TRSA • 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 200, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 • 877-770-9274 • TRSA.ORG

**TRSA**<sup>100+</sup>  
est. 1912  
Strengthening and Promoting the Linen, Uniform  
and Facility Services Industry

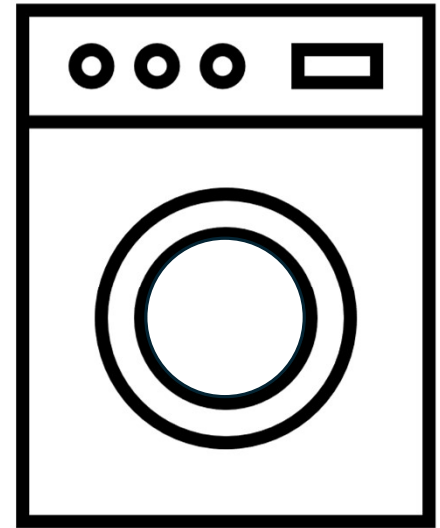
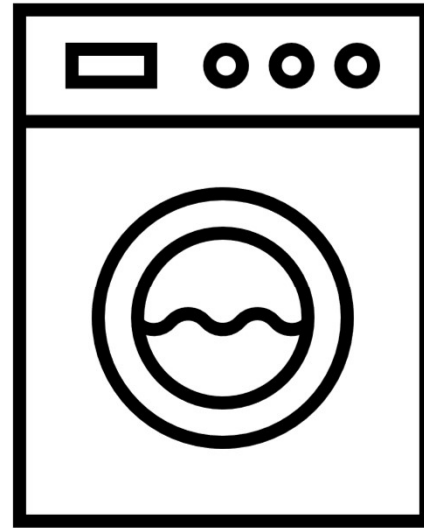
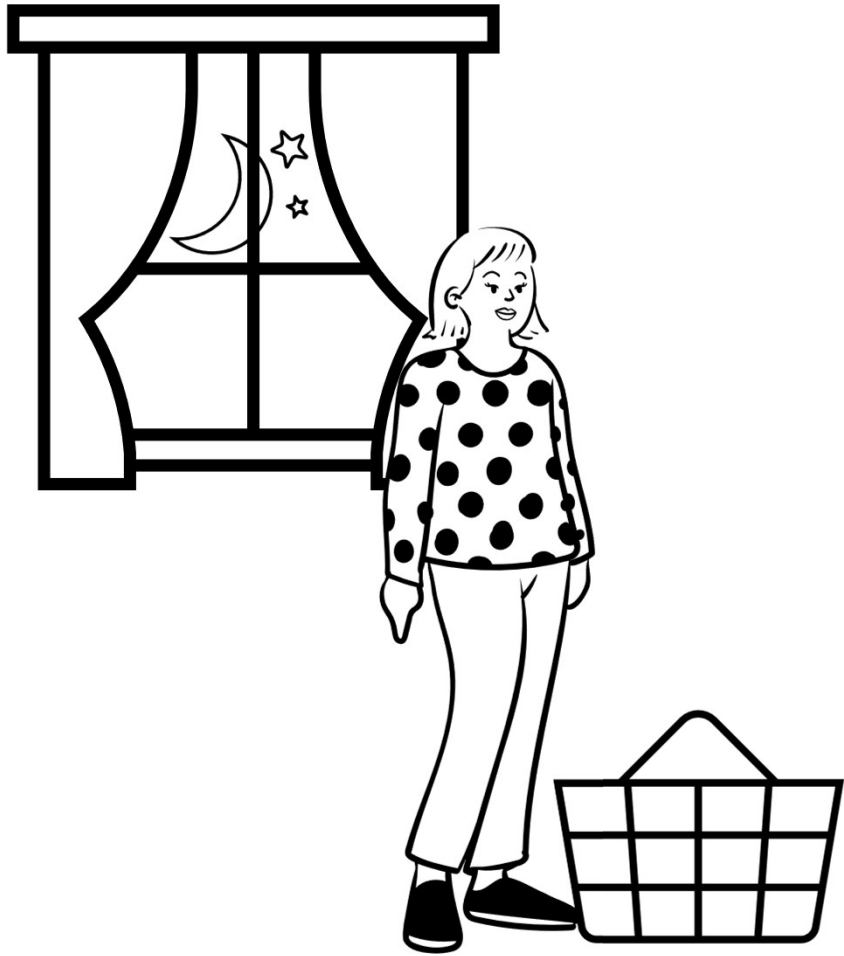


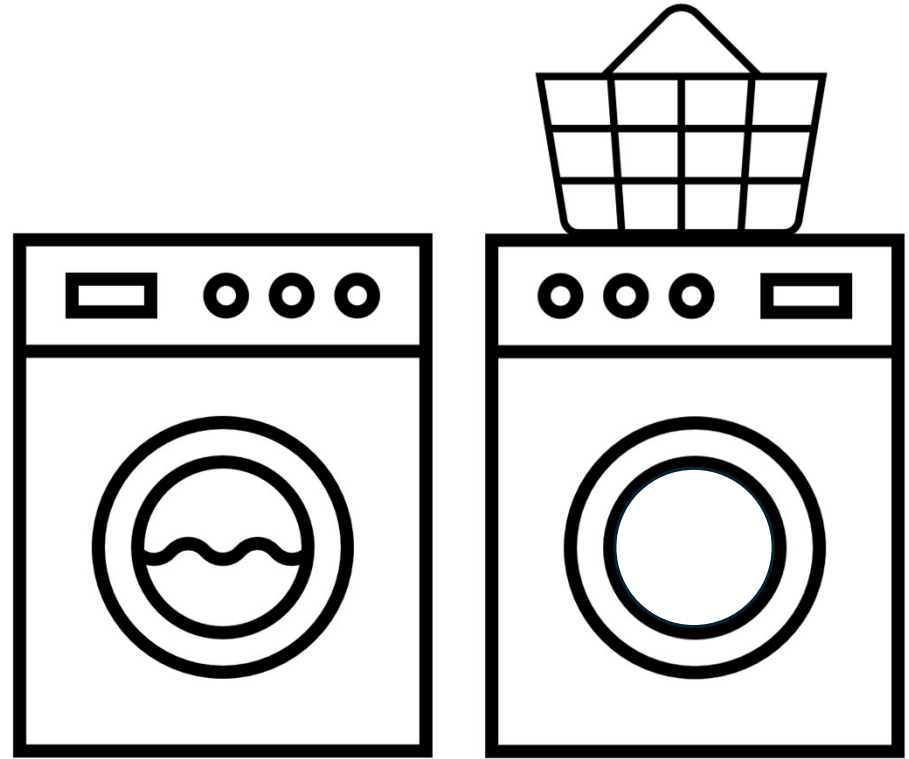
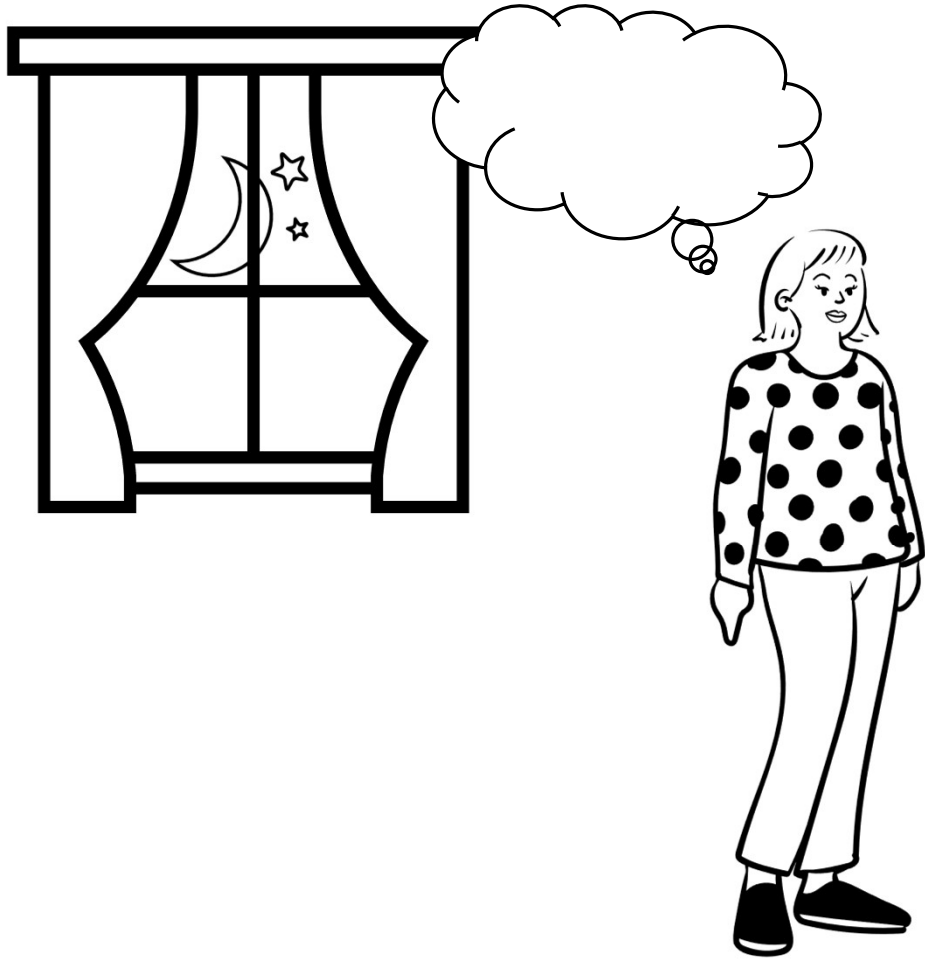


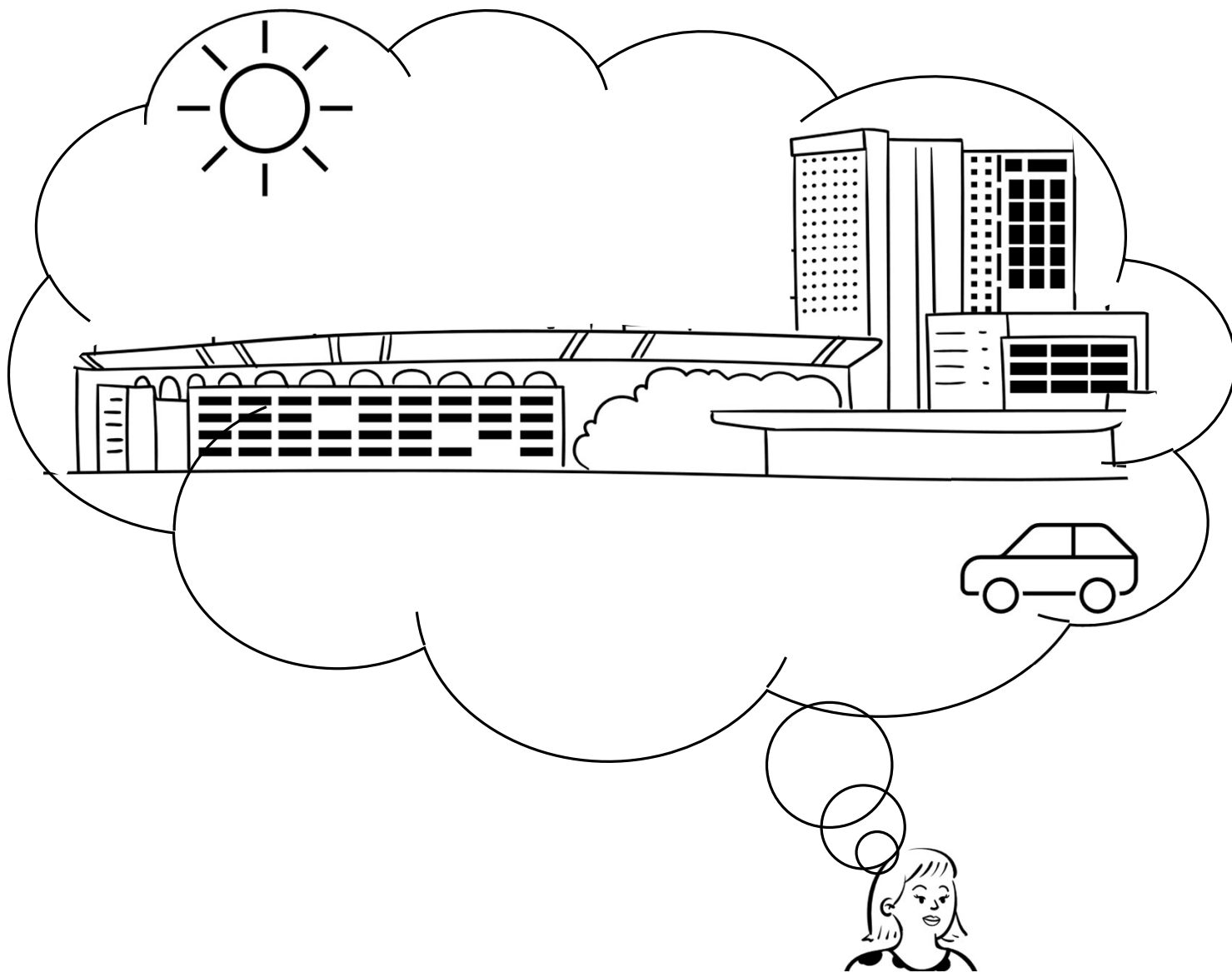


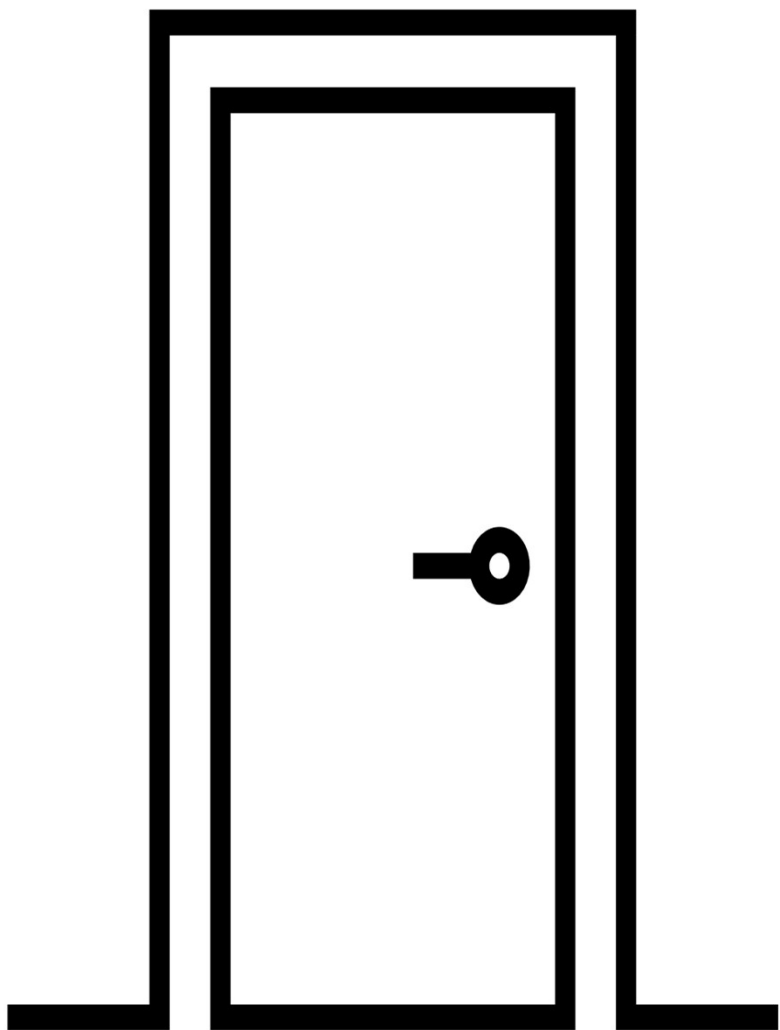




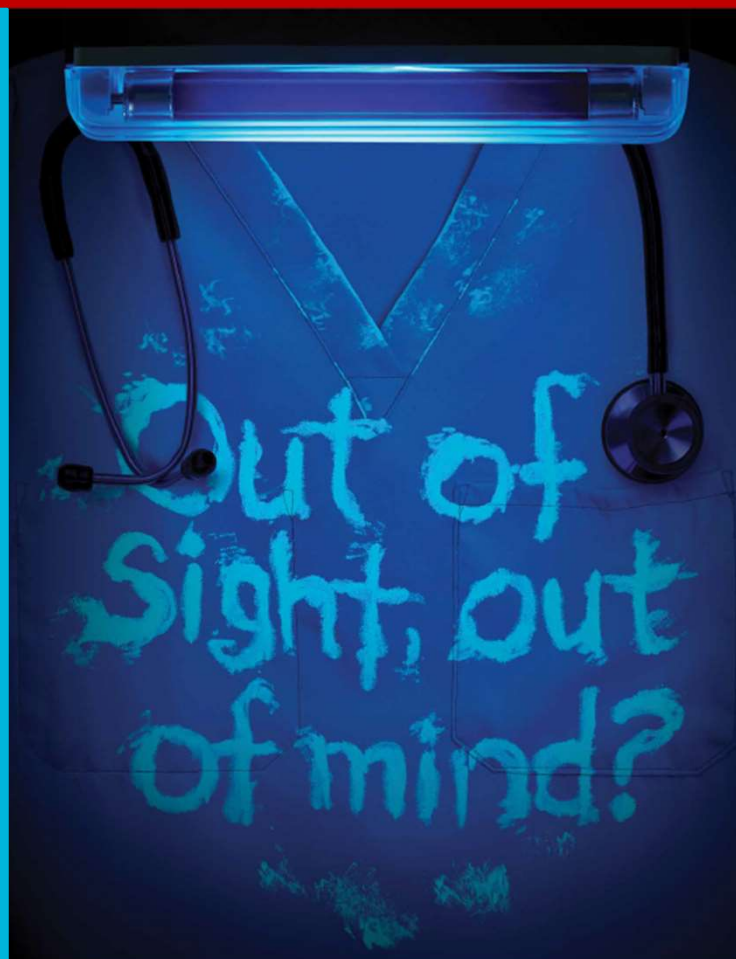












Not when it comes to your scrubs. Whether they're patients, or out in the public, people wonder about what kind of germs you might be carrying. Help end their worrying.

**Take less of your work home with you.**

MDT1108012

# The Risks of Home Laundering Facility- Provided Scrubs

---

Rental Scrubs and Why Home Laundering Falls Short  
Scott Delin

TRSA • 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 200, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 • 877-770-9274 • TRSA.ORG

**TRSA**<sup>100+</sup>  
est. 1912  
Strengthening and Promoting the Linen, Uniform  
and Facility Services Industry



# Rental Scrubs



TRSA • 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 200, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 • 877-770-9274 • TRSA.ORG

# Home Laundering vs. Industrial Laundering

- Home washing machine temperatures by law are not to exceed **120 – 140°F** as they do not want to see children or adults get 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns.
- On the other hand, if your water temperature is **too low**, you may not have the hot water when needed the most. Lower water temperatures can lead to **bacterial growth** and health issues.
- Industrial laundries run their water temperatures at **145 – 155°F** for healthcare and 160°F for hospitality. This ensures NO bacterial growth and promotes hygienically clean products being delivered consistently.

## Questions to Ask

- Is my home washer working properly?
- How much soap should I use?
- What temperature setting is best?
- How long does it take to finish?

**Mary worked a 10-hour shift and is off to moonlight as a home nurse for some extra cash.**



TRSA • 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 200, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 • 877-770-9274 • TRSA.ORG

**TRSA<sup>100+</sup>**  
est. 1912  
Strengthening and Promoting the Linen, Uniform  
and Facility Services Industry

# What can be done?

- Work with your employer to mandate changing into street clothes when finished with shift.
- Assess whether the washer and dryer set-up at home is sufficient to decrease potential spread of bacteria / viruses.

# THE TRUE MEANING OF LAUNDRY

**laun·dry**

*noun*

---

1. Wash, dry, fold, repeat.
2. A never-ending cycle.
3. Sorting life's problems one load at a time.





Bacteria can live on your scrubs for DAYS. No one ordered that.  
**Take less of your work home with you.**



MS7712M015

# The Risks of Home Laundering Facility- Provided Scrubs

---

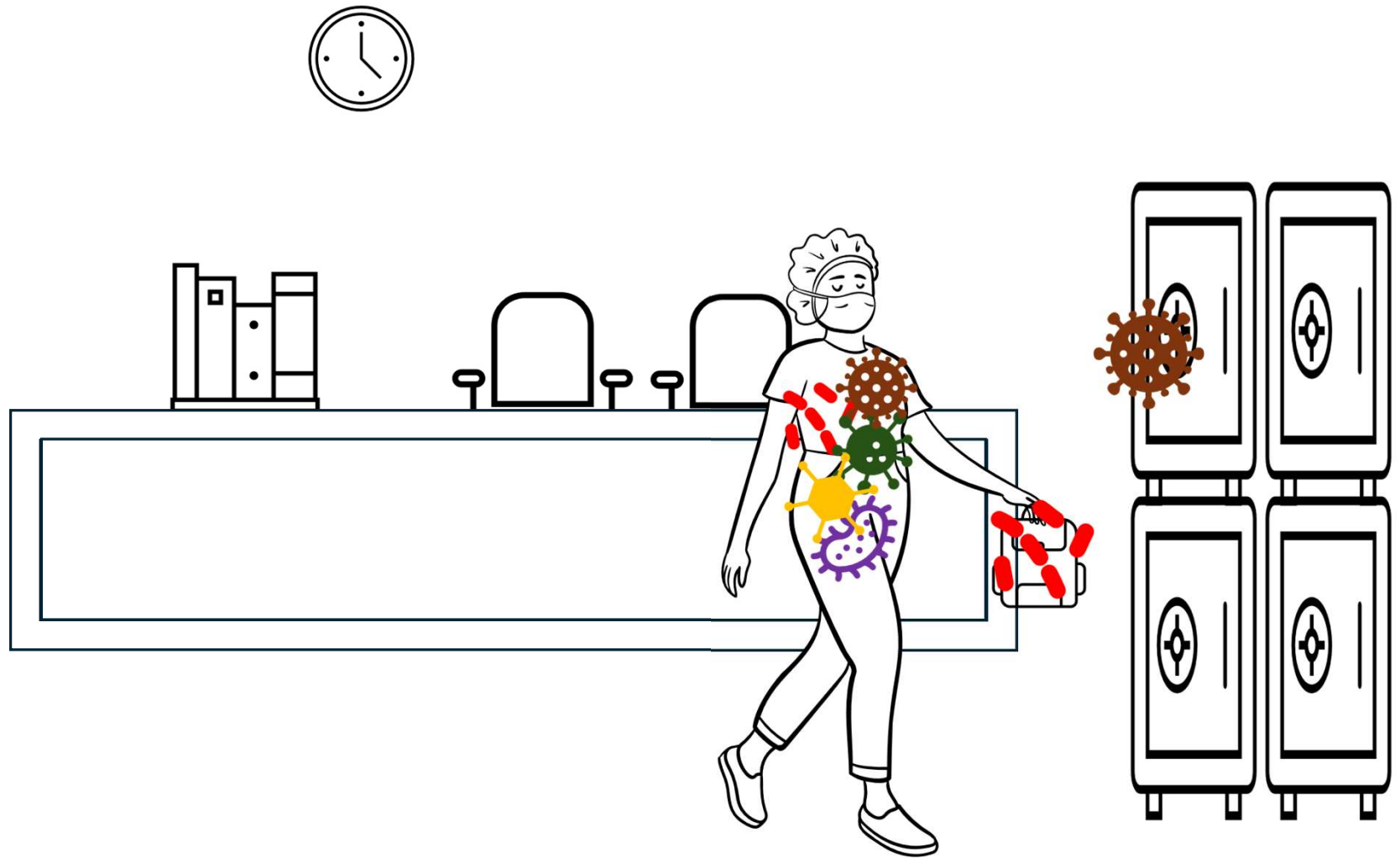
Back to Laurie's story

Dyan Troxel

TRSA • 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 200, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 • 877-770-9274 • TRSA.ORG

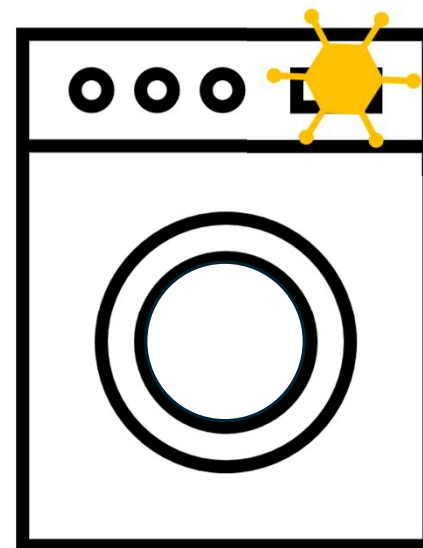
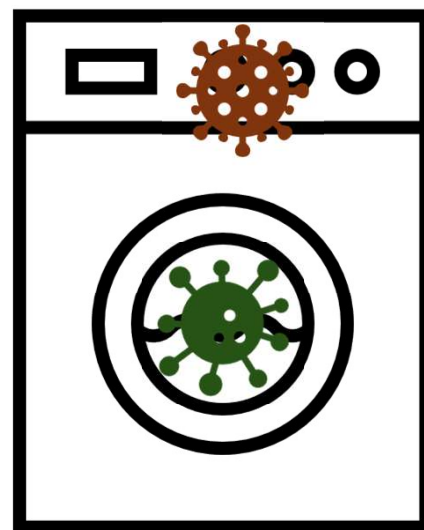
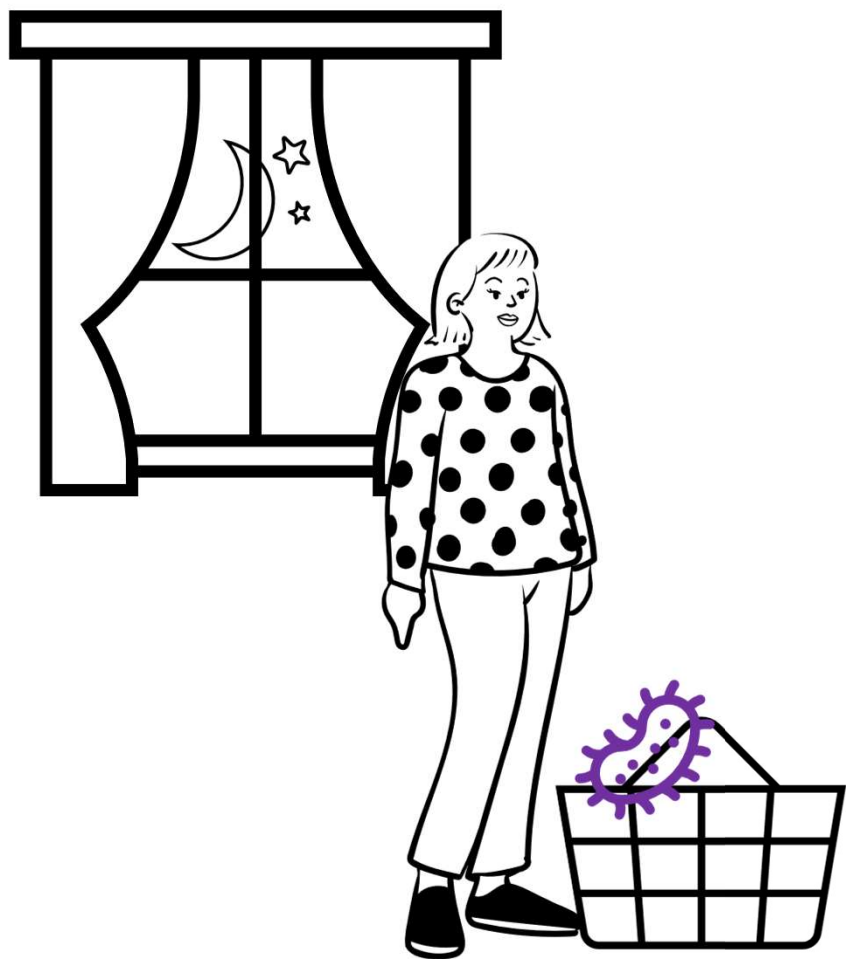
**TRSA**<sup>100+</sup>  
est. 1912  
Strengthening and Promoting the Linen, Uniform  
and Facility Services Industry

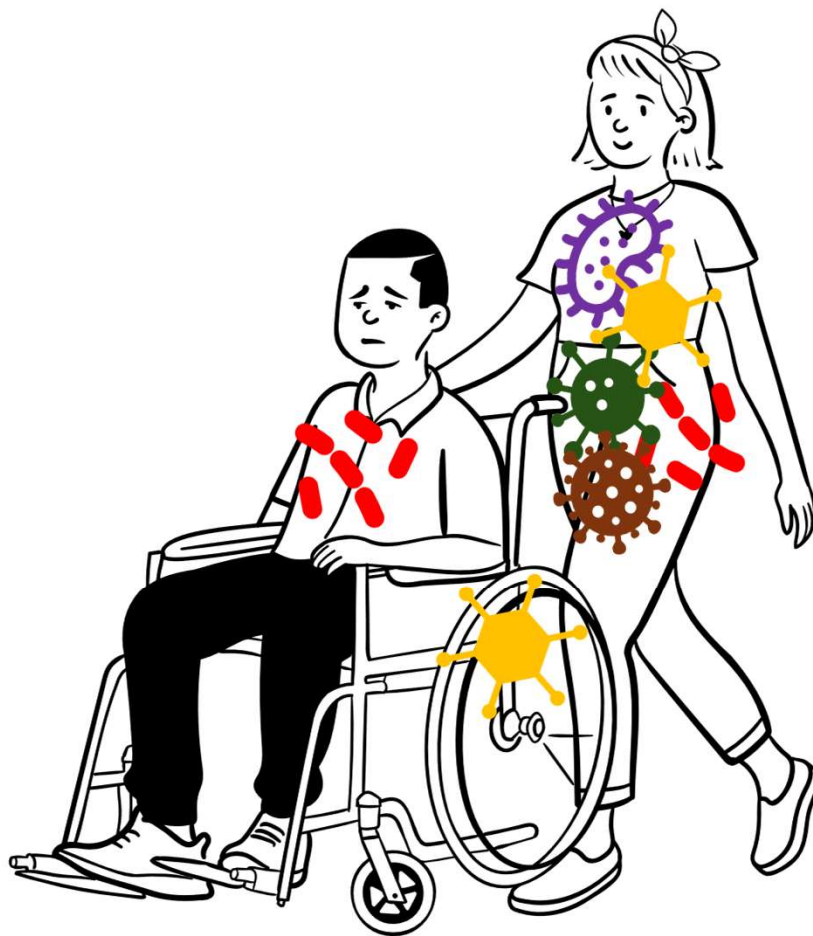
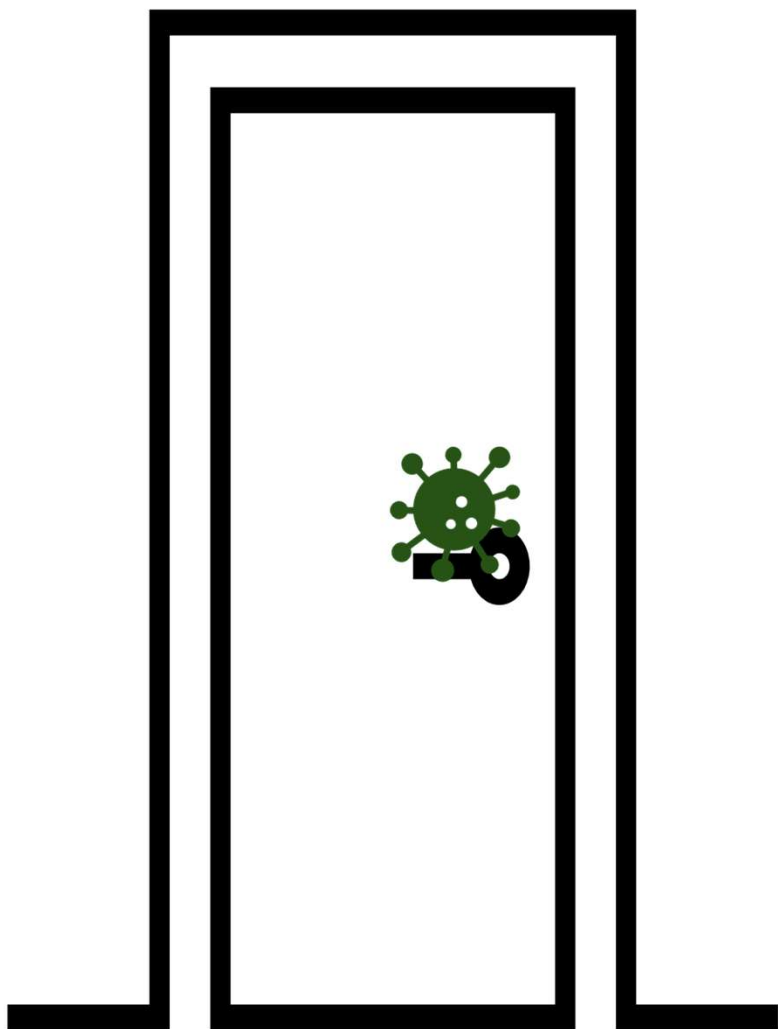












# STOP HOSPITAL HITCH- HIKERS!



Bacteria can live on your scrubs for DAYS. No one ordered that.  
**Take less of your work home with you.**



# The Risks of Home Laundering Facility- Provided Scrubs

---

Recommendations

Liz Barber

TRSA • 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 200, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 • 877-770-9274 • TRSA.ORG

**TRSA**<sup>100+</sup>  
est. 1912  
Strengthening and Promoting the Linen, Uniform  
and Facility Services Industry

# What do the Guidelines Say?

**AORN / APIC:** Home laundering of surgical attire is not recommended.

**CDC:** Healthcare textiles should be processed in controlled environments.

**OSHA:** Employers are responsible for laundering contaminated clothing.

**Hygienically Clean Certification:** Sets validated standards for disinfection and handling.



# What Does the Research Say?

- Nordstrom et al. (2012): Home-laundered scrubs had higher contamination (*S. aureus*, coliforms).
- Smith et al. (2023): No strong evidence that home laundering removes pathogens.
- PHE Uniform Study: 44% of staff wash below 140°F / 60°C.
- IC Today: Viral RNA & MRSA detected on home-laundered scrubs.

# Why Does this Matter to Patient Safety?

Scrubs may look clean—but research shows they can carry:

- Staphylococcus aureus, including MRSA
- Clostridioides difficile spores
- Coliform bacteria
- Viral particles (including influenza and norovirus)

# Why Does this Matter to Patient Safety?

Contaminated scrubs can contribute to:

- Environmental contamination in patient rooms
- Cross-transmission via hands, devices, or surfaces
- Family exposure if scrubs are taken home
- Community risk if wearing scrubs outside of the facility

**RISK FACTORS**

<input type="radio"/> CLABSI	6.5% 17.65516	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="radio"/> CAUTI	1.4%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="radio"/> HAI	2.1%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="radio"/> SSI	1.1%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="radio"/> C. DIFFICILE	1.4%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



# So Why do We Still See Noncompliance?

- Lack of access to employer-laundered scrubs
- Confusion about what qualifies as “contaminated”
- Cultural normalization of home laundering (“everyone does it”)
- Insufficient education on the why behind the policy

# Empowering Compliance Through Infection Prevention

- Embed laundering into onboarding and training.
- Support facility-provided or third-party laundering programs.
- Audit and educate on the risks of noncompliance.
- Position laundry services as IPC partners—not vendors.

Category	Home	Healthcare Laundry
Temperature	Variable	Controlled
Detergents Disinfectants	Non-Validated	EPA-Registered
Quality Assurance	None	Routine
Handling	Household	Compliant with Guidelines
Storage & Transport	Car/Gym Bag/ etc.	Sealed Carts/ Bags



# THEY KNOW YOUR DIRTY LITTLE SECRET



Well, they think they do.  
For some people outside this facility,  
SCRUBS = GERMS.  
Don't give them  
a reason to judge.



Take less of your work home  
with you.

MULTIMEDIA



# The Risks of Home Laundering Facility- Provided Scrubs

---

Barriers to Following Scrub Policies

Dyan Troxel

TRSA • 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 200, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 • 877-770-9274 • TRSA.ORG



# Barriers

Not  
mandated

Lack of  
knowledge /  
lack of buy-in

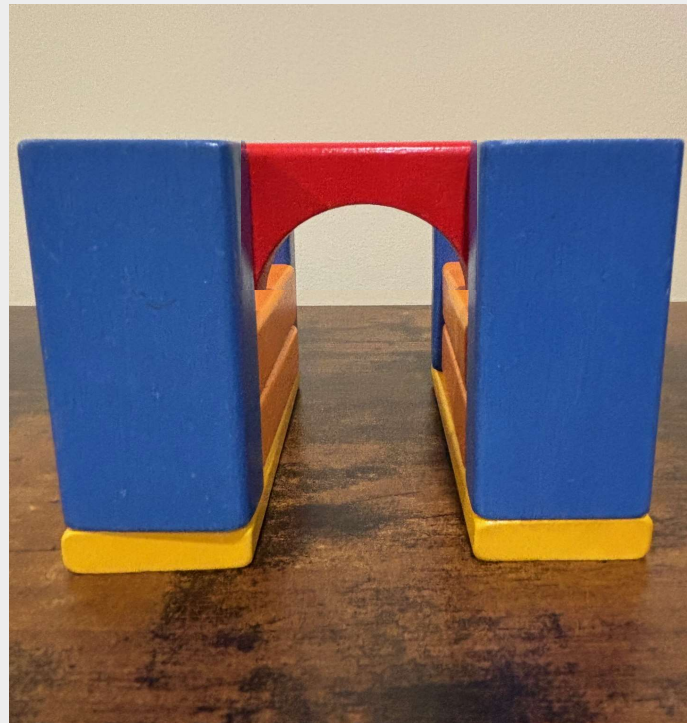
Lack of  
policies

Culture

Time

Lack of  
ownership to  
enforce

# How to break down those barriers?



TRSA • 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 200, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 • 877-770-9274 • TRSA.ORG

# Building a Bridge



RISK ASSESSMENT



EDUCATION



ACCOUNTABILITY

TRSA • 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 200, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 • 877-770-9274 • TRSA.ORG

**TRSA**<sup>100+</sup>  
est. 1912  
Strengthening and Promoting the Linen, Uniform  
and Facility Services Industry



# STOP AIRING YOUR DIRTY LAUNDRY

You see tonight's dinner. They see germs on the produce.  
Don't give them a reason to judge.



Take less of your work home with you.

MAT7786016

# Final Thoughts then Q & A



Scott Delin  
VP, Indirect Healthcare  
Sales  
Fashion Seal Healthcare  
Mobile: (610) 442-0880  
[SDelin@FashionSealHealthcare.com](mailto:SDelin@FashionSealHealthcare.com)



Dyan Troxel, MSN, RN  
Director of Clinical  
Education, HandCraft  
Linen Services  
Mobile: (804) 543-6536  
[dyantroxel@handcraftservices.com](mailto:dyantroxel@handcraftservices.com)



Liz Barber, BSN, RN  
Clinical Educator  
HandCraft Linen Services  
Mobile: (919) 791-6069  
[lizbarber@handcraftservices.com](mailto:lizbarber@handcraftservices.com)



[LAUNDYSERVICES.ORG/RESOURCES](https://LAUNDYSERVICES.ORG/RESOURCES)

TRSA • 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 200, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 • 877-770-9274 • TRSA.ORG

**TRSA**<sup>100+</sup>  
est. 1912  
Strengthening and Promoting the Linen, Uniform  
and Facility Services Industry

# References

Association of periOperative Registered Nurses. (2023). *Guidelines for Perioperative Practice*. AORN.

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. (2018). APIC implementation guide: Infection preventionist's guide to the OR. <https://apic.org>

Association of Surgical Technologists. (2017). *AST guidelines for the laundering of scrub attire*. Retrieved from [https://www.ast.org/aboutus/surgical\\_attire/](https://www.ast.org/aboutus/surgical_attire/)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2003). *Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities*. <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol>

Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC). (2023). *Accreditation Standards for Processing Reusable Textiles for Use in Healthcare Facilities*.

Horn-Lodewyk, J., Wainwright, T., Lessing, K. C., Otto, D., & Fourie, J. (2023). *Optimal home and hospital laundering of reusable surgical scrubs: Systematic literature review*. Journal of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, 28. <https://doi.org/10.4102/hsag.v28i0.2097>

Hygienically Clean Linens and Uniforms. (2024). *Curbing the infection risk of healthcare garments* [White paper]. Textile Rental Services Association. <https://www.trsa.org/?s=curbing+the+infection+risk+of+healthcare+garments>



# References

Link, T. (2020). *Guidelines in Practice: Surgical Attire*. AORN Journal, 111(4), 425-436.  
<https://doi.org/http://doi.org/10.1002/aorn.12991>

Nordstrom, J. M., Reynolds, K. A., & Gerba, C. P. (2012). *Comparison of bacteria on new, disposable, laundered, and home-laundered surgical scrubs*. American Journal of Infection Control, 40(6), 539–543.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2011.07.014>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). (2023). *Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030)*. <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030>

Public Health England. (2020). *Guidance for the decontamination of linen for health and social care*.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infection-control-and-decontamination-of-linen>

Pyrek, K. M. (2021). *Healthcare personnel attire: Domestic versus industrial laundering and the implications for infection prevention*. Healthcare Hygiene Magazine, 24-39.  
<https://www.healthcarehygienemagazine.com/monthly-issues/>

Riley, K., & Williams, C. (2023). *Home laundering of healthcare uniforms: An unregulated risk to patient safety*. Journal of Infection Prevention, 24(1), 12–18. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17571774221133579>

The Joint Commission. (2024). *Laundering: Attire including surgical scrubs and uniforms*. Retrieved from <https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/standard-faqs/ambulatory/infection-prevention-and-control-ic/000001460/>

# Thank you!

---

TRSA • 1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 200, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 • 877-770-9274 • TRSA.ORG

