

A DAY in the LIFE



Environmental services supervisor Courtney Smith is ready to start the day and lead her team.

The incredible contributions of environmental services

At Columbus Community Hospital, the environmental services department works tirelessly to keep the hospital clean, safe and welcoming. From operating rooms and patient recovery areas to offices, the fieldhouse and The Gift Shop, these staff members ensure every space meets the highest standards of safety and sanitation. Their work may be behind the scenes, but it affects every patient, visitor and staff member who walks through the hospital doors.

A day in environmental services

No two days are ever the same, so float staff like Reagan Koliha move wherever coverage is needed. At just 20 years old, Koliha balances her work with college studies in business administration while preparing to launch her own nail tech business. "I go in everywhere," she said. "Every day is different, and it keeps things exciting."

Operating rooms demand extreme precision and focus. Rachael Beister manages OR turnovers, deep terminal cleans of walls and ceilings, and the careful handling of biohazard materials. Her work in orthopedic surgeries, especially joint replacements, can bring unexpected challenges – such as needing to clean bone fragments off the floor or scrub hard-to-reach surfaces. "You really have to stay focused," she said. "Every room has to be perfect for the next patient."

In the maternal child health department, Angela Fangmeier ensures patient rooms are spotless, safe and welcoming for mothers and newborns. She handles biohazards and works quickly to maintain a calm, hygienic environment. "OB can be fast-paced," she said. "It's all about keeping patients safe and comfortable, while making sure staff members can do their jobs without worry."

Brenda Kush brings versatility to the department. She steps in wherever coverage is needed, making sure the hospital runs efficiently even during the busiest days. Her flexibility and reliability are a cornerstone of the team's success.



Reagan Koliha wets a rag and carefully cleans the emergency department, helping maintain a safe and welcoming space for patients.

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Our team has learned to adapt to anything that comes our way, and that makes all the difference.

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Courtney Smith
Environmental services supervisor at Columbus Community Hospital



Brenda Kush
wipes down a
bed before the
next patient
arrives.

Overseeing the department is supervisor Courtney Smith, who coordinates schedules, manages high-census days and ensures staff can respond to unexpected challenges. "Our team has learned to adapt to anything that comes our way, and that makes all the difference," she said.

The challenges they face

The work of environmental services is physically and mentally demanding. Staff must follow complex cleaning protocols, handle biohazards safely and adapt to changing schedules. Float staff members fill gaps wherever needed, charge housekeepers lead in high-demand areas, and versatile team members like Kush keep operations smooth.



Rachel Beister gives an operating room light a thorough wipe, helping ensure a clean environment for the next patients.

The hospital's high-census days are particularly challenging. Rapid room turnovers are required in areas such as the OR or the labor/delivery/recovery/postpartum rooms in maternal and child health, where the next patient room must be ready quickly. But the team rises to the occasion with efficiency, skill and teamwork. "You have to expect the unexpected," Smith said. "And we do – together."

Making an impact

Every clean room, sanitized surface and orderly space directly supports patient care. Environmental services ensures patients recover in safe, hygienic environments, helping prevent infections and creating spaces where healing can happen. The staff members' work extends beyond the hospital's walls to off-site locations such as the CCH Child Care Center and Occupational Health Services, impacting thousands of people each day.

Small touches make a big difference. Staff members leave "bad dad jokes" in long-stay patient rooms, brighten spaces with a smile and ensure common areas like The Gift Shop feel welcoming. These gestures show that care comes in many forms beyond cleaning. "It's the little things that count," Kush said. "A clean room is important, but a friendly touch makes patients feel cared for, too."

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Angela Fangmeier

Housekeeper - charge



Angela Fangmeier cleans and mops a maternal child health room with care, making it safe and welcoming for moms and babies.

Pride and dedication

The environmental services department may work behind the scenes, but its impact reaches every corner of the hospital. From the OR to maternal child health, offices to off-site locations, the team supports healing, safety and comfort – one scrub, sweep and smile at a time.

The team members' dedication, teamwork and pride make a difference every day. "At the end of the day, we know our work helps patients heal," Beister said.

"Even if they never see us, they feel the impact of what we do," Koliha added. "It's busy, messy, sometimes unexpected, but it's rewarding. We keep this hospital safe and running smoothly."