6 Steps to Evaluate an Infection Control Breach

01 Identify the infection control breach.
   - Review practices that may have led to the breach.
   - Interview staff involved.
   - Review records of disinfection procedures.

02 Gather additional data.
   - Determine the time frame of breach.
   - Determine patients that may have been exposed.

03 Notify and involve key stakeholders:
   - Infection control professionals.
   - Risk management.
   - Local and state health departments.
   - Affected healthcare providers.
   - Licensing or other regulatory agencies, if appropriate.

04 Perform a qualitative assessment.
   - If possible, classify breach as category A or B:
     - Category A involves a gross error or demonstrated high-risk practice.
     - Category B involves a breach with lower likelihood of blood exposure.

05 Decide on patient notification and testing.
   - If category A, patient notification and testing is warranted.
   - If category B, consider the following:
     - Potential risk of transmission.
     - Public concern.
     - Duty to warn vs. harm of notification.

06 Handle communication and logistical issues.
   - Develop communication materials.
   - Consider post-exposure prophylaxis if appropriate.
   - Conduct testing, obtain consent, and perform counseling.
   - Address media and legal issues.

Source: CDC, Steps for Evaluating an Infection Control Breach, 2012