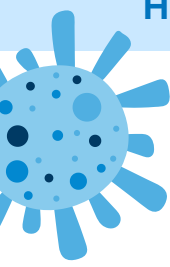


CHAIN OF INFECTION

HOW INFECTIONS CAN OCCUR & HOW TO BREAK THE CHAIN



The germ needs a reservoir -

Where it can live and grow. This could be a human, food, water, or matter.

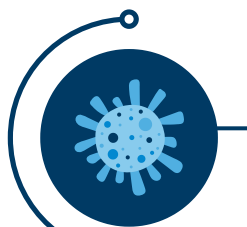
Stop at the source i.e. isolation

The germ needs a mode of transmission - To spread from one person to another. This can be person to person via airborne or ingested pathogens, or via contaminated surfaces or equipment.

Interrupt mode of transportation i.e. handwashing

A susceptible host - This is someone at risk of infection. This could be residents, staff or even visitors.

Increase the host's defences i.e. vaccinations



An infectious agent needs to exist - This is the germ/micro-organism that can cause the infection.



The germ needs a portal of exit -

It needs to find a way out to spread. This could be by coughing, sneezing, vomiting, touching or bodily fluids.

Block the portal or exit i.e. cover mouth



Portal of entry - Bacteria needs to find its way into another person. For example, through eyes, mouth, hands etc.

Protect portal of entry i.e. face mask

