Where Is the Risk?
Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients

- Viruses like HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C can spread in healthcare when contaminated blood is on a sharp item.

- If that item causes a cut or break in someone else’s skin (e.g., an accidental needlestick), germs can spread to that person and cause a new infection.

- Reusing needles or syringes is especially risky because germs in the blood can spread from one person to another.

- Blood in the environment – like on linens or a device – grows bacteria and spreads via touch or devices.

Germs That Can Live in Blood
- HIV
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Bacteria (when outside the body)

Healthcare Tasks Involving Blood
- Putting in an IV
- Giving an injection
- Surgery and procedures
- Changing soiled laundry

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk
- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, eye protection)
- Safe injections
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Textile management