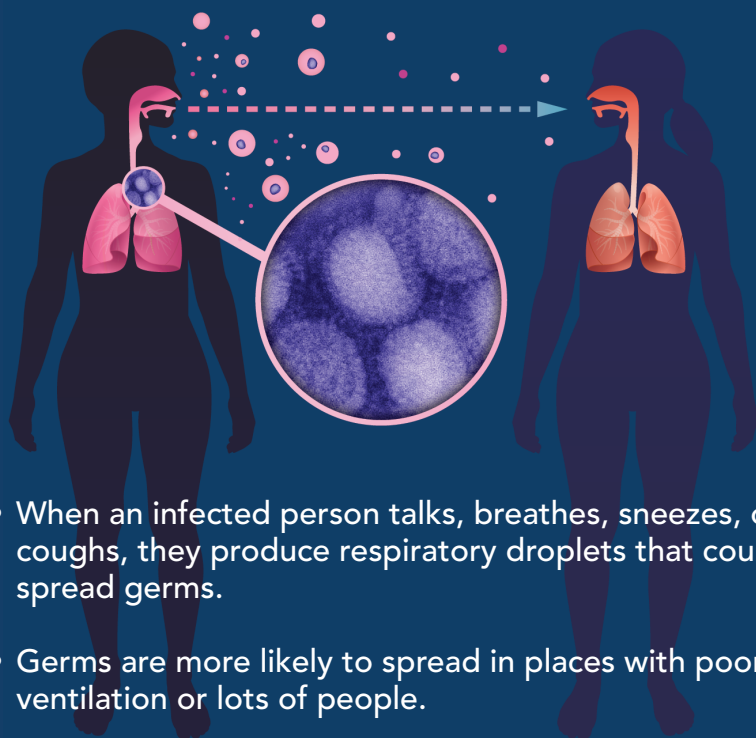


GERMS CAN LIVE IN THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.

WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients



- When an infected person talks, breathes, sneezes, or coughs, they produce respiratory droplets that could spread germs.
- Germs are more likely to spread in places with poor ventilation or lots of people.
- When people touch their faces, respiratory germs on their hands can end up in their eyes, nose, or mouth and cause an infection.

Bacteria and Viruses Can Live in the:

- Mouth
- Throat
- Airway
- Lungs



Healthcare Tasks Involving the Respiratory System

- Aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs), such as intubation and extubation
- Activities with close interaction within an enclosed space, such as talking or examining a patient's throat

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Screening and triage
- Use of personal protective equipment
- Source control
- Maintaining good ventilation
- Hand hygiene
- Cleaning and disinfection of shared equipment



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