

A .gov website belongs to an official government organization in the United States. A lock () or https:// means you've safely connected to the .gov website. Share sensitive information only on official, secure websites. Germs are a part of everyday life. Germs live in our air, soil, water and in and on our bodies. Some germs are helpful, others are harmful. An infection occurs when germs enter the body, increase in number and the body reacts. Only a small portion of germs can cause infection. For an infection to occur, germs must transmit to a person from a source, enter their body, invade tissues, multiply and cause a reaction. Healthcare providers can perform basic infection prevention measures to prevent infection. There are 2 tiers of recommended precautions to prevent the spread of infections in healthcare settings: There are also transmission- and germ-specific guidelines providers can follow to prevent transmission and healthcare-associated infections from happening. Learn more about how to protect yourself from infections in healthcare settings. CDC provides information on infection control and clinical safety to help reduce the risk of infections among healthcare workers, patients, and visitors. Languages Language Assistance Languages Language Assistance

