

Basic Infection Control

<https://content.relias.com/resources/CoronaVirusToolKit/InfectionControlTheBasics/index.html?lms=1>

Learning Objectives

After taking this course, you should be able to:



Sequence the components in the chain of infection.



Differentiate between each of the four methods of transmission.



Apply standard and transmission-based precautions.

Chain of Infection

A specific set of conditions must exist in a specific sequence for an infection to spread. *Click on each of the parts of the sequence to find out more.*

Agent

The chain begins with an infectious agent, such as bacteria, fungi, parasites, or viruses.

Reservoir

The place where the agent lives, grows, and multiplies. It may be a human, animal, or even the environment.

Portal of Exit

The path by which the infectious agent leaves its host. This could be through the nose, mouth, or in blood or body fluids.

Method of Transmission

The way the agent travels from the reservoir to the host, which may include direct and indirect contact, droplet, and airborne transmission.

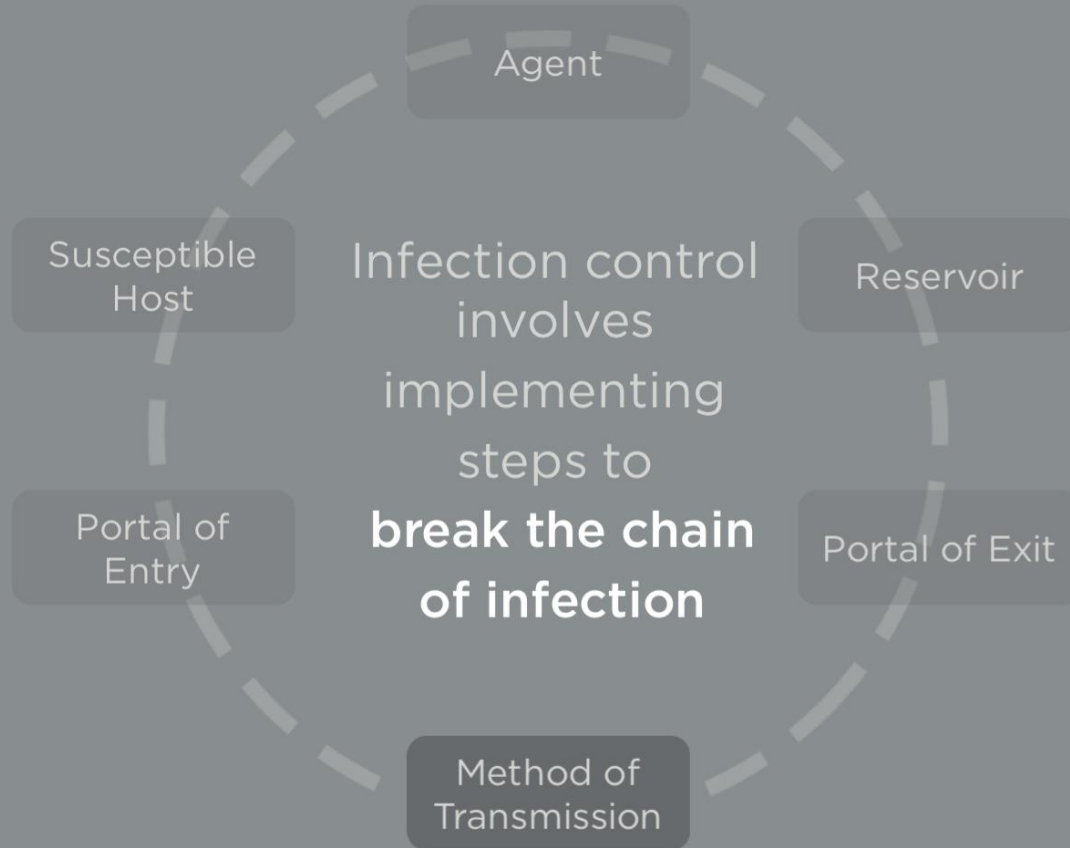
Portal of Entry

The manner in which the agent enters the host. This may be through a mucous membrane, such as the eyes, nose, or mouth, or through non-intact skin.

Susceptible Host

A person who is unable to resist the invasion of an infectious agent.

Methods of Transmission



Methods of Transmission

✕ Direct Contact

✕ Indirect Contact

✕ Droplet

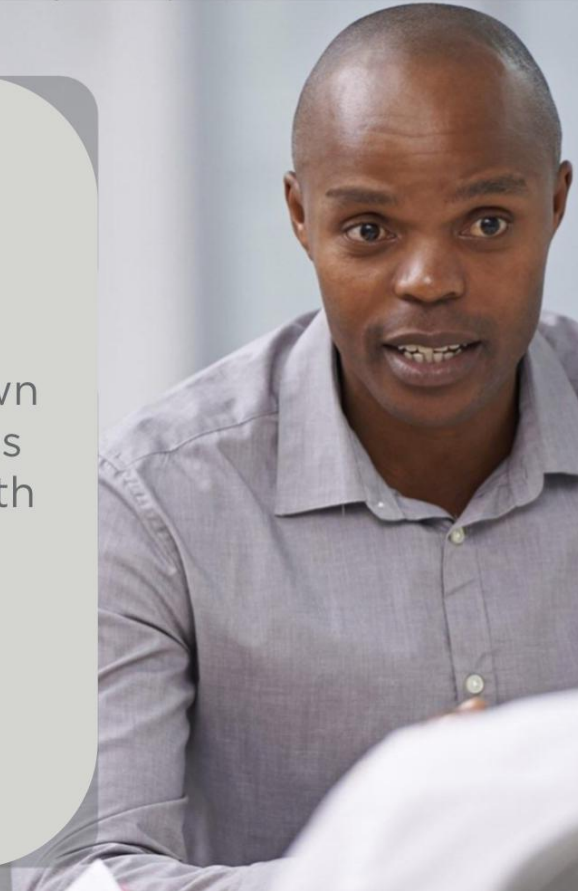
✕ Airborne



Your co-worker Nathan asks you what precautions he should take if he has to take the temperature of someone on contact precautions because of infectious diarrhea. How should you respond?

Correct.

The use of gloves and a gown is required for all interactions that may involve contact with the individual or potentially contaminated areas in the environment.



Standard Precautions

Remember, breaking any one of the links in the chain of infection will stop the spread of the infection. The measures that you take to stop the transmission of infectious agents, thereby breaking the chain of infection, are called standard precautions.

Standard precautions are based on the principle that **all** blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, non-intact skin, and mucous membranes may contain transmissible infectious agents (CDC, 2007).

Standard precautions include proper hand hygiene, the use of personal protective equipment, and the appropriate cleaning and handling of equipment, environmental surfaces, and laundry.