



BREAKING THE INFECTION CONTROL CHAIN: PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

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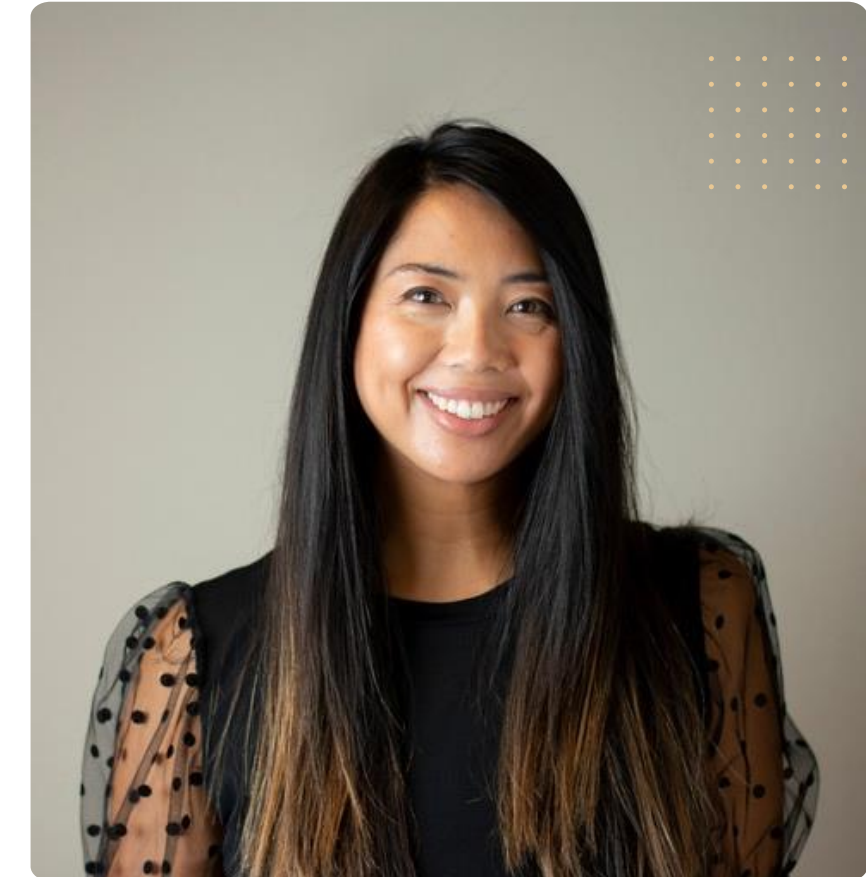
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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT MSNW

- Woman-operated
- Founded in 1995 – 31 years of facility services
- IICRC Certified
- BSCAI Certifications – Registered Building Service Manager (RBSM) and Certified Building Service Executives (CBSE)



Christelle Elbert
Business Development Manager



AGENDA

We'll cover three key areas:

- Standard and transmission-based precautions
- The chain of infection
- Rules and best practices

Goal: Understand not just *what* to do, but *why* it matters

WHY START HERE?

- Infection prevention is the foundation of everything we do.
- We need to understand how infections spread and how we stop them.

YOUR ROLE IS CRITICAL

- Cleaning staff are on the front lines of infection prevention
- You are actively breaking the chain of infection
- You protect patients, residents, and staff

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Pathogens found in blood:

- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- HIV



OUTBREAKS & CLUSTERS

- **Outbreak** = rapid spread of infection among a group
- **Goal:** prevent outbreaks before they start
- Prevention comes from consistent, proper cleaning practices

EMERGING PATHOGENS

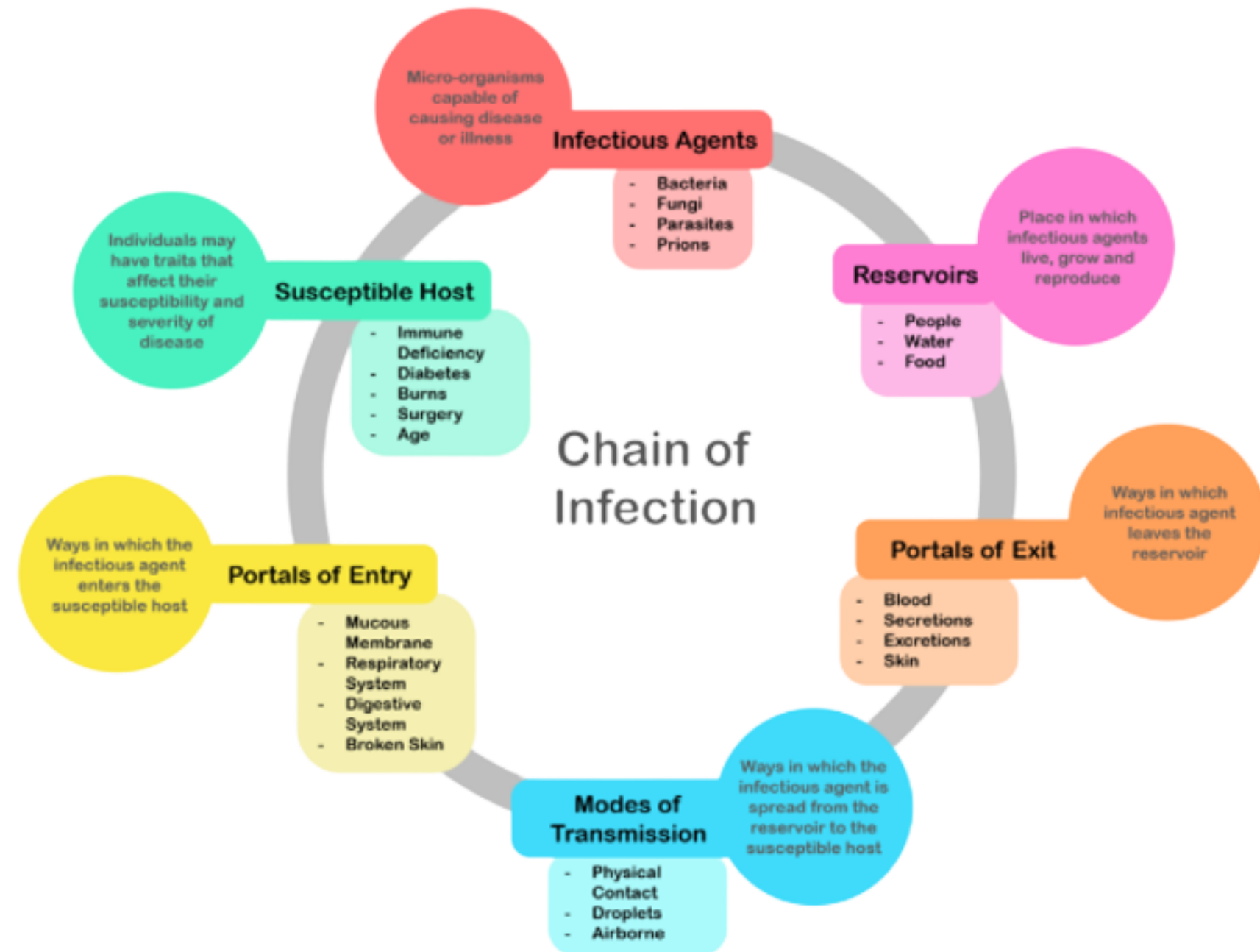
- New threats continue to emerge (COVID-19, Ebola, Zika)
- Infection control is always evolving
- Strong fundamentals apply to any new threat



CHAIN OF INFECTION

Six links:

- Infectious agent
- Reservoir
- Portal of exit
- Mode of transmission
- Portal of entry
- Susceptible host



Break any one link = stop the infection

CHAIN OF INFECTION EXAMPLE - FLU

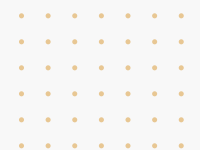
- Lives in humans or animals
- Spreads through coughs and contaminated surfaces
- Enters through nose, mouth, or eyes
- Cleaning disrupts transmission — the critical link



ACTIVITY



- Practice identifying the chain of infection
- Determine where it can be broken
- **Key takeaway:** you always have the power to interrupt infection



PREVENTION BEHAVIORS

- Proper PPE use
- Frequent hand hygiene
- Correct cleaning and disinfecting
- Understanding how infections spread

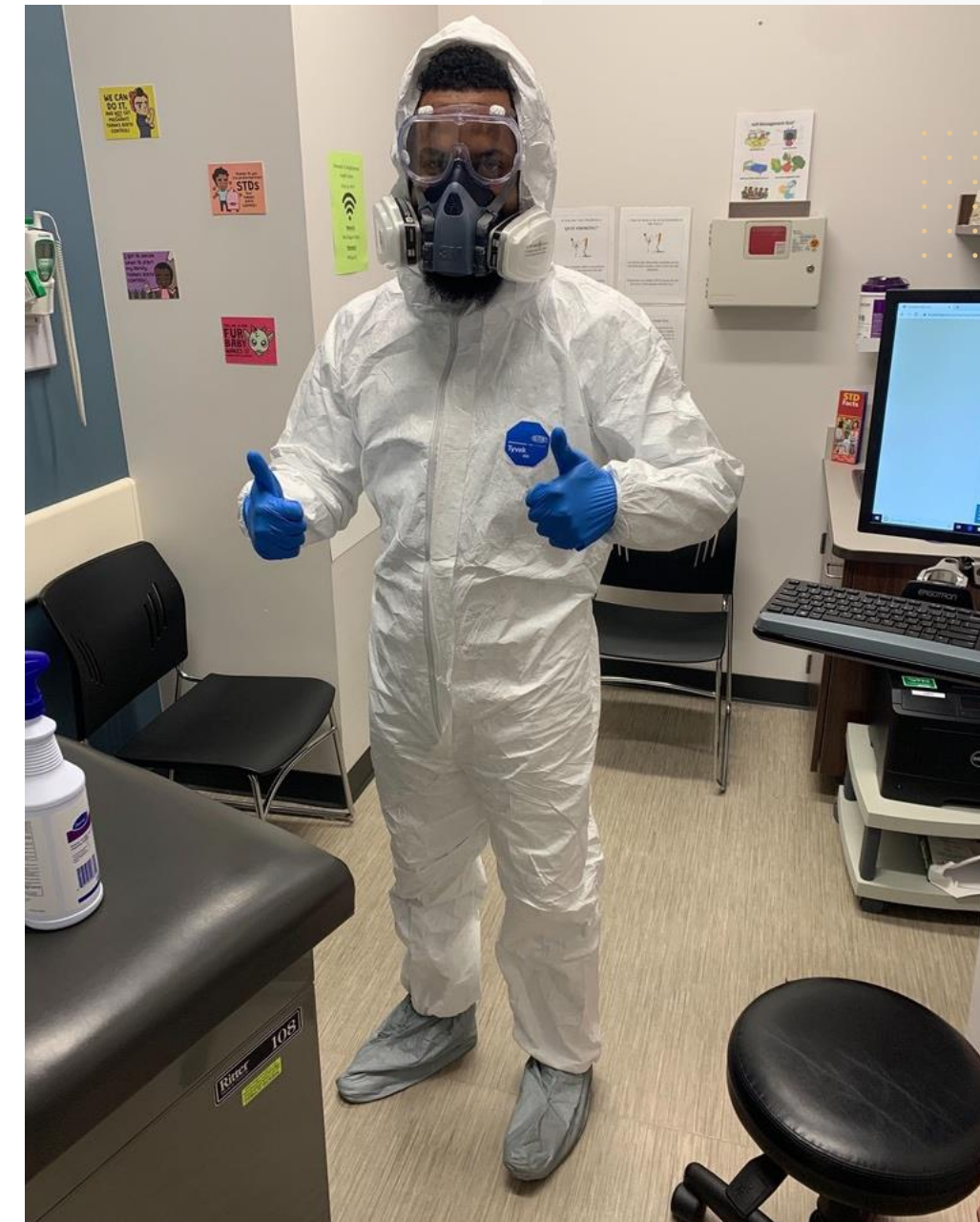


STANDARD PRECAUTIONS

- Treat everything as potentially infectious
- **Includes:** hand hygiene, PPE, safe waste handling
- Used at all times — this is the baseline

TRANSMISSION-BASED PRECAUTIONS

- **Contact** (touch) → gown and gloves
- **Droplet** (coughing/sneezing) → mask
- **Airborne** (particles in air) → respirator and special rooms
- Follow based on posted signage and instructions



EVERGREEN HEALTH

HOSPITAL / HIGHER ACUITY CARE

Focus: Transmission-based precautions + PPE

- Patients may be on contact, droplet, or airborne precautions
- Before entering a room, our team must:
 - Read door signage
 - Wear the correct PPE
 - Follow proper donning and doffing procedures

What we emphasize is:

- PPE isn't optional—it's protection
- The way you remove PPE is just as important as putting it on
- Every step helps contain infection within that space

Stops infections from spreading beyond a single room.



READING DOOR SIGNS



- Always read door signs before entering a room
- Signs specify required PPE
- Signs guide your cleaning process



COVID-19

- Reinforced importance of PPE, cleaning protocols, and understanding transmission
- These practices are now standard expectations



PATHOGEN KILL LEVELS

- Some pathogens are harder to kill (e.g., prions = extremely difficult)
- Viruses and bacteria are easier to eliminate
- Choosing the right disinfectant is critical

BELLINGHAM AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER

Focus: Critical cleaning standards + surface disinfection

- Procedures being performed:
 - Surfaces must be disinfected to a higher standard
 - There's zero room for missed areas
 - Timing and process matter every single time

Our team focuses on:

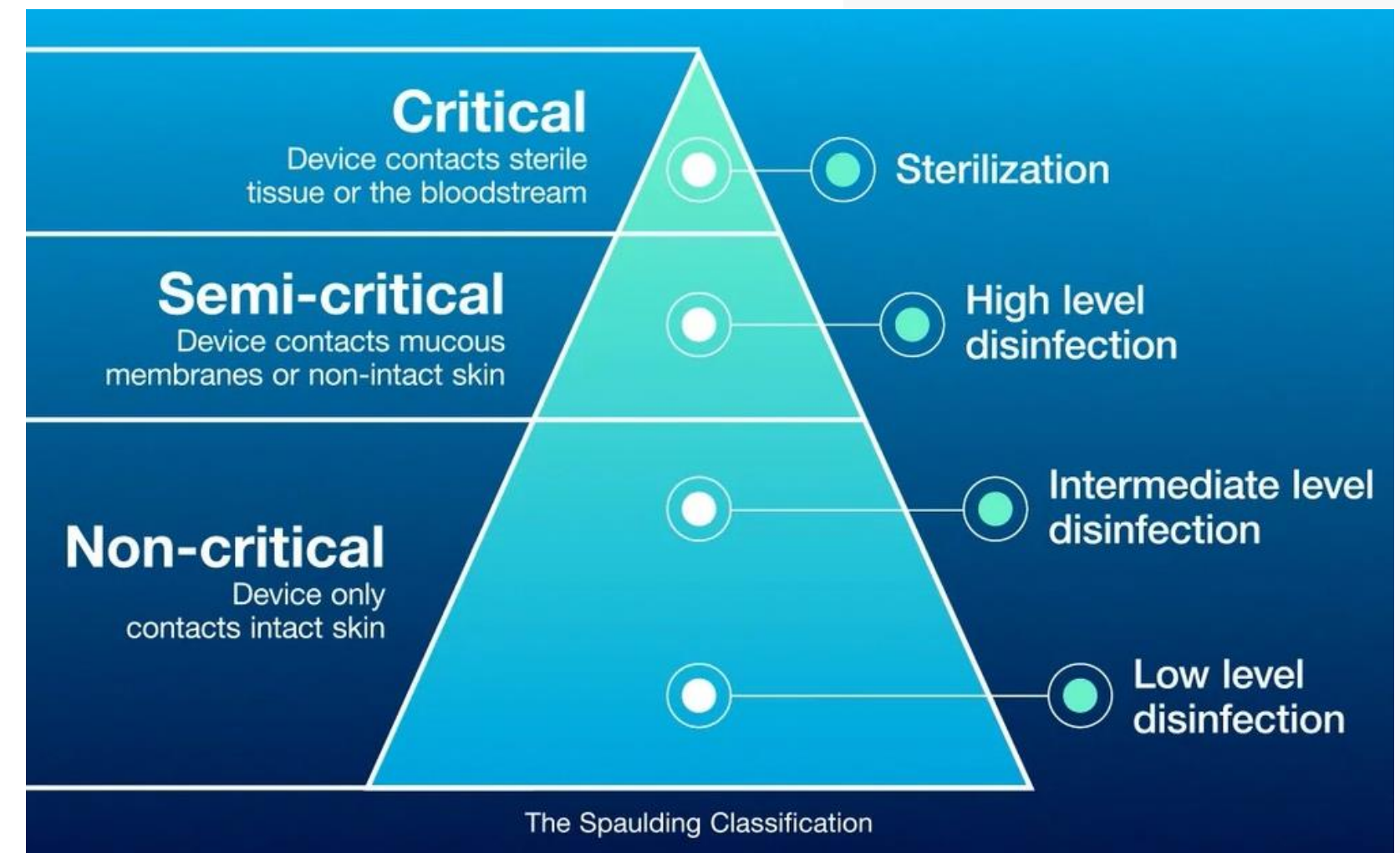
- Following the full cleaning sequence
- Using approved disinfectants correctly
- Never rushing the process, even under time pressure

In a surgical environment, even small mistakes have serious consequences.



SPAULDING CLASSIFICATION

- System for determining level of cleaning required based on risk
- Guides whether item needs: sterilization, high-level disinfection, or lower-level cleaning



EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

- Electrostatic sprayers
- UV light
- Foggers
- These tools enhance cleaning —
but do not replace proper
technique



HAND HYGIENE



- One of the most important infection prevention steps
- Wash thoroughly and consistently
- One of the easiest ways to stop infection spread



RESPIRATORY HYGIENE

- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Dispose of tissues properly
- Clean hands immediately after
- Simple actions prevent major spread



FRONTIER DERMATOLOGY

OUTPATIENT / CLINIC SETTING

Focus: High-touch surfaces + patient turnover

- Patient turnover every 15-20 mins
- Exam chairs, light handles, countertops, door handles

Our teams follow a strict process:

- Clean first, then disinfect
- Focus on all high-touch areas—not just what's visible
- Use the correct dwell time for disinfectants

Directly breaks the chain at the **transmission stage.**

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- Correct donning (putting on) and doffing (removing) is critical
- Improper removal is a leading cause of contamination
- Follow proper sequence every time



CLEANING PROCESS

- Work in a consistent pattern
- Clean from cleanest to dirtiest areas
- Work top to bottom
- Use one-directional wiping
- Prevents missed areas and cross-contamination



TRUSTED RESOURCES



- Rely on trusted sources for updated guidance
- Key resource: CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

CROSS-FACILITY LESSON (APPLIES TO ALL CLIENTS)

Focus: Chain of infection + your role

- Across all our healthcare clients, the same principle applies: **We are breaking the chain of infection.**



Think about it:

- Pathogens live on surfaces
- They transfer through touch
- They enter through the eyes, nose, or mouth

Every time you properly clean and disinfect a surface, you're stopping that chain. **Your role is infection prevention!**



CLOSING



- Infection prevention is a responsibility, not just a task
- Every time you clean, you are protecting people, preventing outbreaks, and breaking the chain of infection
- What you do matters



FOR MORE INFORMATION



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