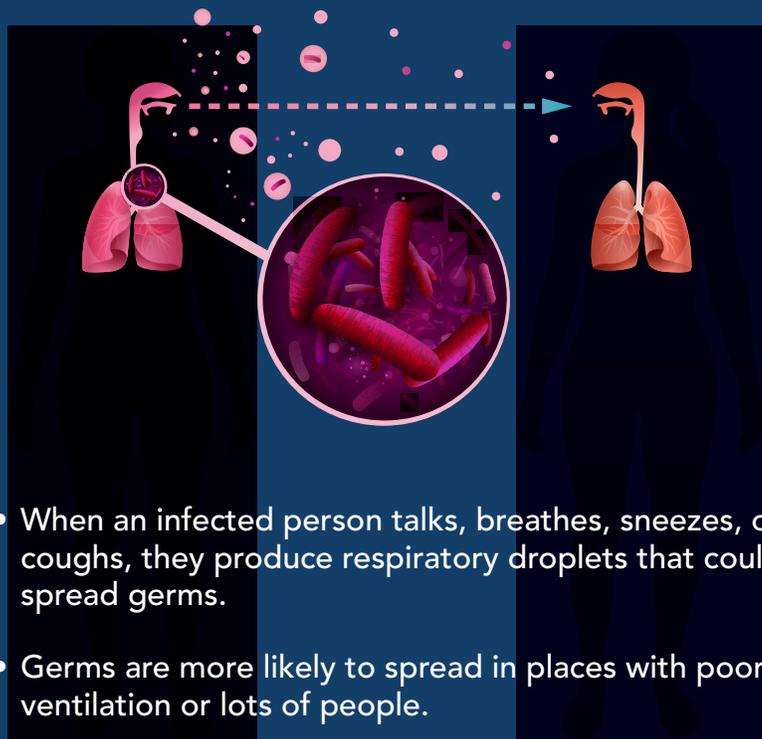


GERMS CAN LIVE IN THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.

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.
- Germs in the nose and mouth can be spread to the skin and hands when people touch their faces, which can then spread to surfaces or other people.

Germs That Can Live in the Respiratory System

- *Pseudomonas*
- *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph, including MRSA) (tip of the nose)
- Viruses, like influenza and SARS-CoV-2



Healthcare Tasks Involving the Respiratory System

- Oral care (e.g., toothbrushing)
- CPAP use for sleep apnea
- Intubation
- Giving nebulized medication

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (respirators, eye protection)
- Source control (masking)
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette
- Ventilation