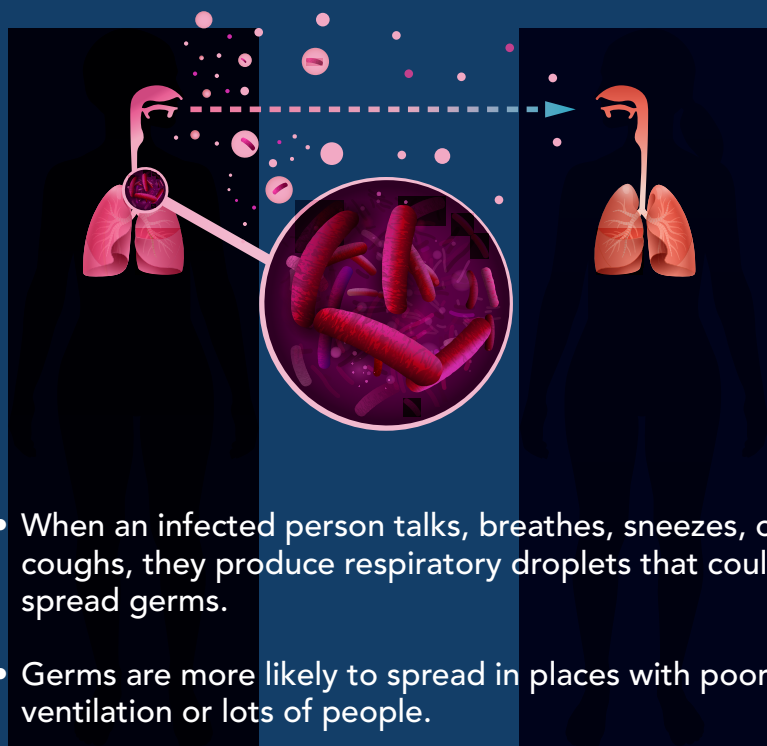


# GERMS CAN LIVE IN THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.

## WHERE IS THE RISK?

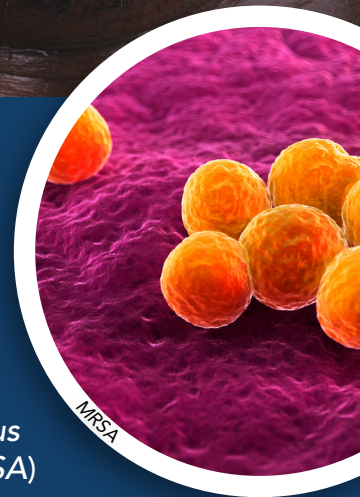
Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients



- 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