



Course Information

Infection Control: An Overview

Course Code: R-180307-NZ Course Collection: Health & Safety

Learning Pathway: Fundamental



Course aim: Discover how infectious agents spread and identify simple precautions that can be taken to reduce the risk of infection.

Target Audience: All staff, Care Staff, New Care Staff, Volunteers, Experienced Care Staff, Registered Nurses, Management, Domestic Staff, Catering Staff, Administration Staff

Learning outcomes

After viewing this course, participants should be able to:

- Describe the different types of infectious agents (micro-organisms) and the harm they can cause
 - Explain why older people are at increased risk from infections
 - Distinguish the links in the chain of infection and how to break them
 - Implement the role of standard precautions in preventing and controlling the spread of infection
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Expert:

Maria Dent has worked in the Aged Care Industry since 1997. She has worked as a Care Manager in a Low Care Facility and has also worked as a Nurse Educator for various aged care facilities both in high and low care settings. She has been involved in the implementation of standards to gain Accreditation within various facilities and has a strong background in infection prevention and control in the residential care setting.

Martin Jones is a specialist Community Infection Control Matron with Liverpool and Merseyside Community Health Services (UK). He is part of a team of specially trained nurses who provide advice and support on all matters relating to Infectious diseases and illnesses, both to the public, healthcare workers and independent providers of healthcare, as well as community health staff and services.

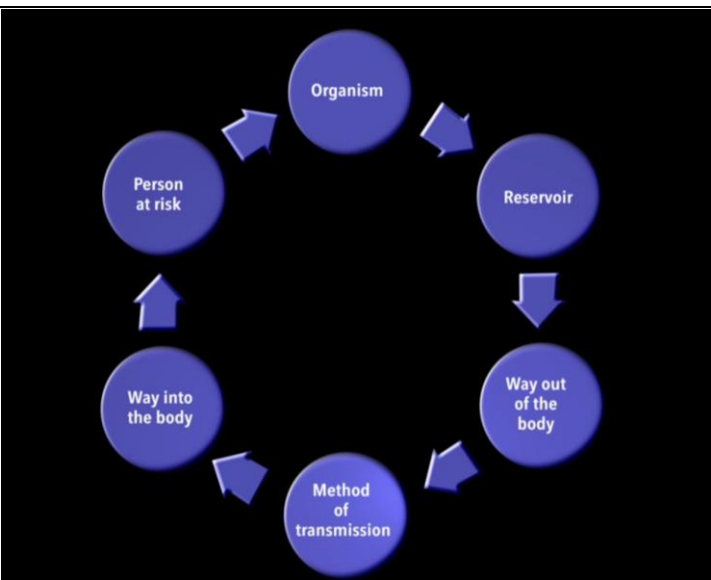
Think about:

- In what ways might you be exposed to infectious agents during the course of your day?
 - What are your organisation's policies surrounding the use of personal protective equipment and infection control?
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Active Learning Hours:

This course and the accompanying assessment may require up to three hours of active learning. It is the learner's responsibility to calculate how many hours of active learning have taken place. The course viewed must be relevant to the care worker or nurse's context of practice for it to be considered continuing professional development. Certificates are available from your coordinator.



<p>The Chain of Infection</p>	
<p>An infection</p>	<p>An infection is when a person develops an illness or disease which is caused by a micro-organism that has multiplied to sufficient numbers inside their body to levels that cause harm.</p>
<p>An infectious agent / Pathogen</p>	<p>Micro-organisms that cause infections are called pathogens, or infectious agents, and are sometimes referred to as 'germs'. Most germs or infectious agents are invisible to the naked eye and are found on almost every surface; the air, water, food, plants and animals, soil and on surfaces that we touch including our bodies.</p>
<p>Bacteria</p>	<p>Bacteria is a type of infectious agent. Some bacteria are not harmful to our bodies at all. However many disease causing bacteria produce toxins that cause damage to cells and cause people to feel unwell. e.g. Clostridium difficile (C.diff).</p>
<p>Viruses</p>	<p>A virus is a type of infectious agent that invades the cells in the body in order to reproduce, often killing the host cells in the process. Viruses cause a number of common diseases such as the common cold, chickenpox, influenza, shingles and gastroenteritis.</p>
<p>Fungi</p>	<p>Fungi are a type of infectious agent, they are organisms that are opportunistic i.e. they will grow in the right conditions or if a person is immunocompromised. A common type of fungi infection is Candidiasis (Thrush) on the skin, mouth or vagina.</p>
<p>Parasites</p>	<p>Parasites are type of infectious agent. They are organisms that live on a host and get food from or at the expense of the host. The most common parasitic infections include scabies and head lice.</p>
<p>Multi-resistant organisms</p>	<p>Multi-resistant organisms are a type of infectious agent that has become resistant to a number of different antibiotics usually used in their treatment.</p>



Resources to support your learning

WHO – Infection Prevention

<http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/en/>

WHO – Five Moments for Hand Hygiene

<http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/background/5moments/en/>

WHO – Hand Hygiene: Why, How & When?

http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Hand_Hygiene_Why_How_and_When_Brochure.pdf

Hand Hygiene NZ

<http://www.handhygiene.org.nz/>

DISCLAIMER:

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