

GERMS CAN LIVE ON DRY SURFACES.

WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients



- Germs found on the body, in the air, and in stool can often be found on dry surfaces, and some can live for a long time.
- Dry surfaces include “high-touch” surfaces like bed rails, door handles, and light switches. They also include countertops, bed curtains, floors, and things that might not be touched as often.
- Hands can pick up germs from dry surfaces and move them to other surfaces and people.
- Germs from dry surfaces can also get onto devices that are used on or in patients.

Germs That Live On Dry Surfaces

- *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. diff*)
- Methicillin-resistant *Staph aureus* (MRSA)
- *Candida* spp. (including *C. auris*)
- *Acinetobacters* spp.



Healthcare Tasks Involving Dry Surfaces

- Anything involving touch
- Using devices
- Patient transport

Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (gloves and gowns)



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