

# 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*)
- Norovirus
- *Candida* (including *C. auris*)
- Rotavirus



## Healthcare Tasks Involving Dry Surfaces

- Anything involving touch
- Using devices
- Patient transport

## Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

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



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention



[WWW.CDC.GOV/PROJECTFIRSTLINE](http://WWW.CDC.GOV/PROJECTFIRSTLINE)