

Beebe Healthcare
Margaret H. Rollins School of Nursing
Nursing 101 - Foundations of Nursing

Infection Control Class Prep 10/11/24

You will be required to complete the lesson on ATI, “Chain of Infection & Body Defenses.” You will complete the lesson (No need to print anything) and on this handout, write the proper order for the Chain of infection, an example of each of the components of the chain of infection, 3 nursing interventions and the rationale for doing them to protect against infections.

Proper order of the Chain of Infection with an example of each:

1. **Infectious Agent:** something that contains a bacterium, fungus, virus, parasite, or prion. (ex. *C. diff*, *S. aureus*)
2. **Reservoir:** the habitat of the infectious agent; where it grows, reproduces, and replicates itself. (ex. humans, insects, IVF, contaminated water, medical equipment)
3. **Portal of Exit:** route by which an infectious pathogen can leave the reservoir. (ex. blood/ bodily fluids → wound drainage, GI tract, any body orifice)
4. **Mode of Transmission** (ex. contact, droplet, airborne, and vector-borne → can be transmitted by one OR more of these means)
5. **Portal of Entry:** provides a place for infectious agent to enter the body for replication (ex. entry/ contact via open wound, inhalation through nose, mouth)
6. **Susceptible Host:** required for infectious agent to take hold and become a reservoir for infection. Not everyone exposed to an infectious agent will get ill/ exhibit manifestations. (ex. client with suppressed immune system)

3 Nursing Interventions w/ Rationales:

1. **Practicing proper hand hygiene:** Cleaning hands with soap and water or an alcohol based hand rub can physically remove germs from the hands and wrists, reducing the spread of infection when direct contact is made.
2. **Using PPE effectively**
 - Gloves: protect clients from being infected by materials on the nurse’s hands
 - Gowns: can prevent penetration and contamination of bodily fluids onto the nurse
 - Masks/ Goggles/ Face Shields: Protect eyes, nose, and mouth from droplet transmissible infections. Can also protect the nurse during procedures where blood or bodily fluids may be splashed into the eyes.
3. **Disposal of linens and medical waste/ devices in the proper containers:** soiled linens and used medical devices can be a source of indirect transmission of pathogens. Disposal of these materials quickly and effectively can reduce spillage and unnecessary contact.