



Cascades East
Area Health Education Center

Hand Hygiene For Health Occupations Students

St. Charles
HEALTH SYSTEM





Why is proper hand hygiene so important?

- Watch this video to see what can happen
 - [Ginny's Story](#)
- Take a minute to talk about how YOU would feel in Ginny's position. Who do you feel is responsible? What might your options be?

Hospital-acquired Conditions



Hospital -acquired conditions (HAC) are just that-conditions a patient acquires during his/her hospital stay.



HAC include everything from “foreign objects retained after surgery” to “blood incompatibility” to a variety of hospital acquired infections.



HAIs in U.S. hospitals have direct medical costs of at least \$28.4 billion each year.

Hospital- acquired Infections

- *Ginny's Story* was about one patient's experience with a hospital-acquired infection (HAI)
- HAI can make patients seriously ill and impact their quality of life
- An HAI can be life-ending
- In the U.S. 1 in 31 patients have an HAI

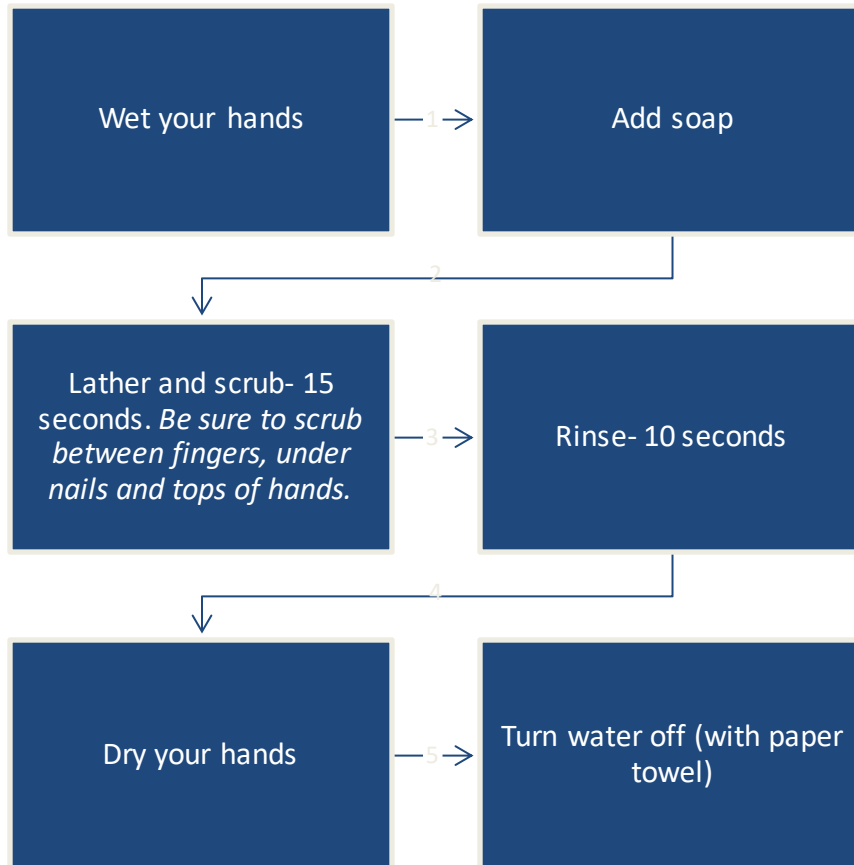


A scanning electron micrograph (SEM) showing several rod-shaped Clostridium difficile bacteria. The bacteria are yellowish-green and have a textured, slightly wrinkled surface. They are set against a dark red, fibrous background that resembles biological tissue. The bacteria are scattered across the frame, with some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background.

Clostridium Difficile

- Clostridium difficile is a bacterium that causes diarrhea and can cause more serious intestinal conditions.
- *Fecal-oral transmission* through a contaminated environment and the hands of healthcare personnel... that's someone who DIDN'T wash their hands with soap and water after using the bathroom!
- Proper hand washing with soap and water sanitizes hands contaminated with "clostridium difficile."

Proper Hand Washing – 6 Steps



Hand Sanitizers

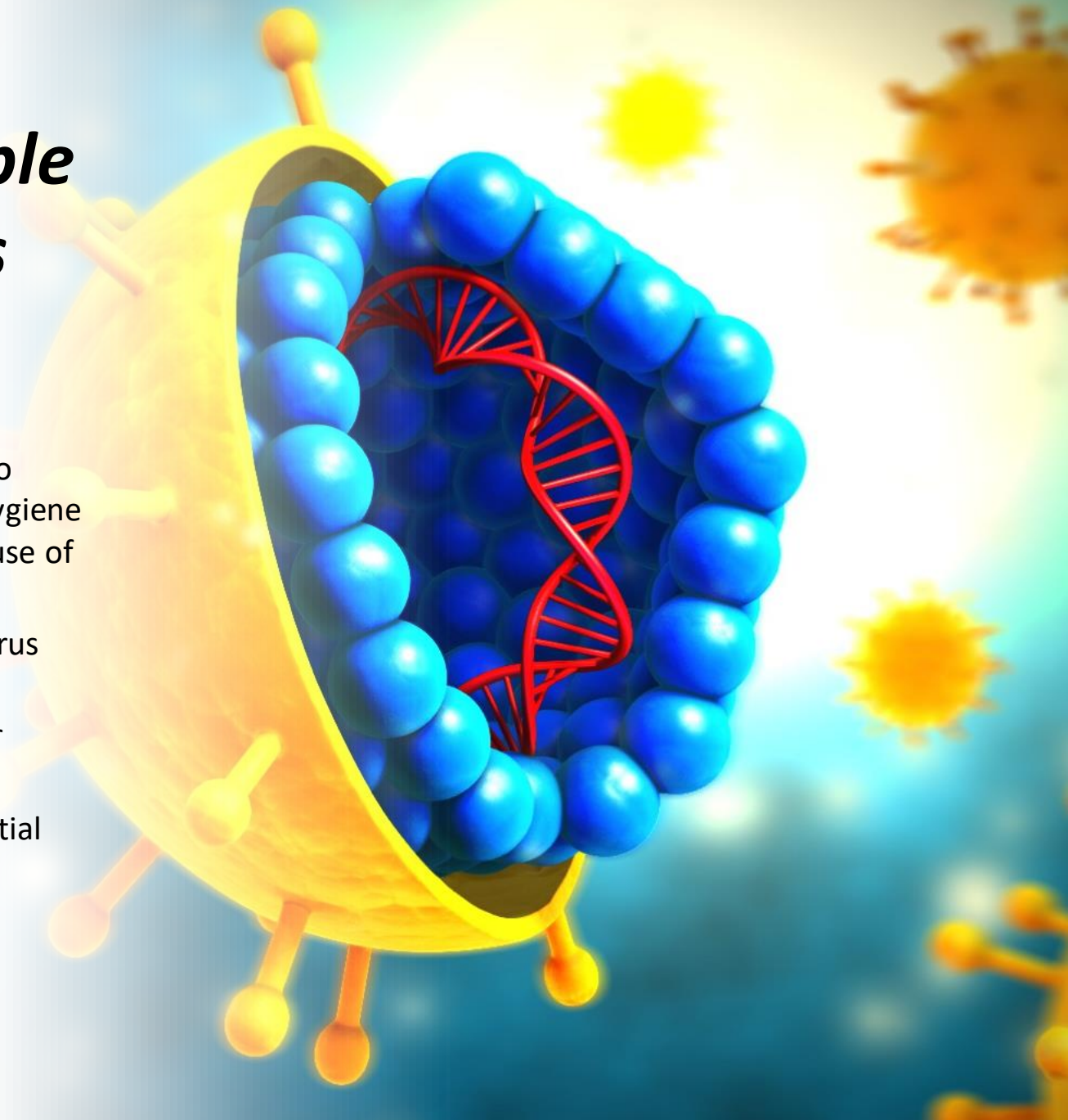
- In most patient rooms, you'll see two sources of alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - Apply an adequate amount to your hands
 - Rub together until dry
- You should observe caregivers using proper hand hygiene protocol.
- Hand hygiene should be performed
 - Before entering a patient's room
 - Before leaving a patient's room
 - After removing gloves
 - Washing with soap and water is required
 - * after using the restroom
 - * when hands are visibly soiled

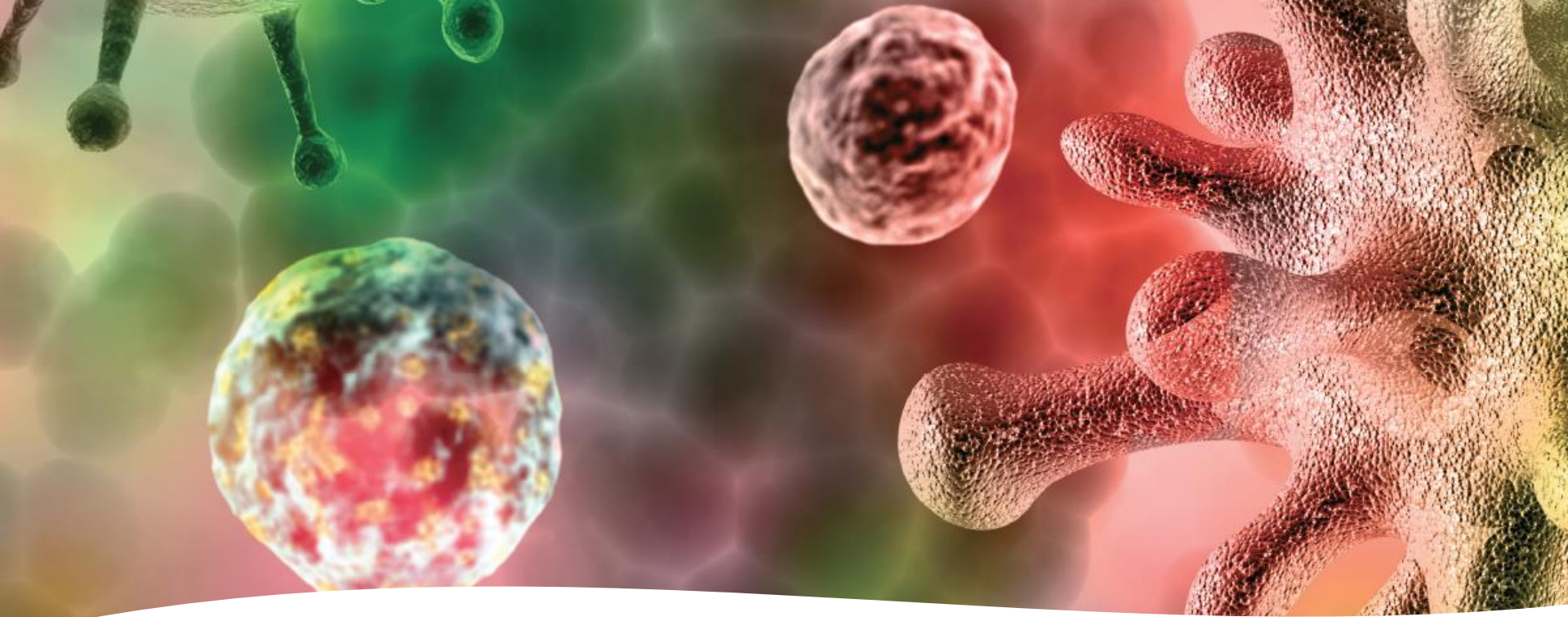


Transmittable Infections

These infections can be transmitted from patient to caregiver if proper hand hygiene techniques (including the use of gloves) are not performed:

- Herpes simplex virus infection
- MRSA infection or colonization
- Respiratory syncytial virus infections
- Hepatitis B virus infection





Pathogens Survival

The following pathogens can readily survive in the patient's environment from **days to weeks!**

- Clostridium difficile
- MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus)
- VRE (vancomycin-resistant enterococcus)

Lessons Learned- Hopefully

- Wash your hands- early and often
- When you enter the hospital- don't bring "bugs" in with you!
- When you leave the hospital- don't take "bugs" out with you!
- Use the hand sanitizer we give you!
- Expect questions on hand hygiene during orientation, on the quiz!

