

# GERMS LIVE IN WATER AND ON WET SURFACES.

## WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread  
and protect patients



- Tap water is safe to drink, but it is not sterile. It always has some germs in it.
- Most of the time, the germs in tap water aren't a problem for healthy people, but they can cause illness in patients with very weak immune systems.
- Germs in water can spread to surfaces and people and cause harm.
- If medical instruments and equipment (e.g., devices and central lines) get wet, bacteria can grow. When those devices are used, that bacteria can then get into a patient's body or blood and cause infection.

## Germs That Live in Water

- *Acinetobacter*
- *Serratia*
- *Pseudomonas*
- *Legionella*



## Healthcare Tasks Involving Water

- Toileting
- Cleaning
- Handwashing

## Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

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