

Infectious Agent:

*The pathogen that causes disease, harmful infection/illness.
Includes viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites.*

Bacteria
Viruses
Parasites
Fungi

Reservoir:

*Where pathogens live and grow.
Can be on/in a person or animal, surfaces/equipment,
environment, or food or water.*

Humans
Animals
Vectors
Food
Soil
Water
Fomite

Susceptible Host:

*Can be anyone!
Most vulnerable are those receiving healthcare,
immunocompromised, older adults, babies and young
children, unvaccinated individuals.*

Infants; young children; older adults;
immunocompromised due to medication,
medical condition or socioeconomic
conditions impeding basic nutrition, hydration,
shelter and clothing; unimmunized/
non-immune

Chain of Infection

Portal of Exit:

*How infectious agent leaves the reservoir.
Can be through open wounds, aerosols, splatter of
body fluids.*

Mucous membrane secretions
Bleeding or wound exudate
Fecal elimination
Vomiting

Portal of Entry:

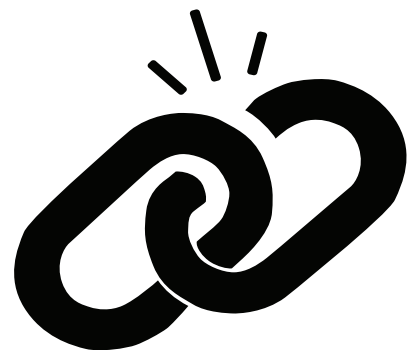
*The way infectious agents enter new host.
Through broken skin, respiratory tract, mucous
membranes, etc.*

Mucous membranes
Breaks in skin
Inhalation
Ingestion

Mode of transmission:

*How infectious agents get passed on.
Direct or indirect contact, ingestion, inhalation, etc.*

Airborne
Droplet
Contact
Parenteral
Sexual contact



Break a Link – Prevent Infection



Northwestern
Health Unit

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