

# GERMS LIVE IN "THE GUT."

## WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread  
and protect patients



- The gut is filled with bacteria and some yeasts, which are part of a healthy immune system.
- Most gut germs don't cause problems in healthy people, but they can cause infection when they spread.
- Germs in stool can spread onto hands and skin when wiping or changing a diaper.



## Germs That Live in the Gut

- *E. coli*
- *Klebsiella*
- *Candida*
- *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. diff*)



## Healthcare Tasks Involving the Gut

- Toileting/changing diapers
- Bathing a patient
- Laundry

## Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- Hand hygiene
- Use of personal protective equipment (gloves and gowns)
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Textile management
- Waste management



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



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