# **BREAKING THE CHAIN OF INFECTION**



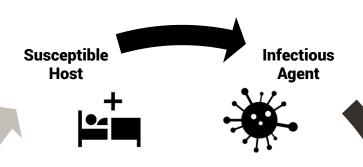
Breaking the Chain of Infection is AHE's CHEST certified process for understanding how infections spread and how they can be prevented. Preventing the spread of infection is top of mind for all stakeholders in the healthcare environment, especially EVS staff. Breaking just one link prevents the spread of infection and keeps patients and workers healthier.

### THE LINK

**Current patients of vulnerable workers**: at risk people are stressed, sleep deprived and already sick.

### **HOW TO BREAK IT**

Being aware of vulnerable patients (cancer, elderly, burn) and aware of workers' health.



#### THE LINK

A pathogen: bacteria, virus, fungi, or parasite

#### **HOW TO BREAK IT**

**Prompt treatment**, decontamination/ disinfection and rapid identification of organisms

An opening that allows the pathogen to enter the body: breaks in the skin, IVs, tubes, eyes and mouth.

## **HOW TO BREAK IT**

Hand hygiene, wear gloves and face protection like a mask and goggles.





### THE LINK

The place where pathogens grow: human sources like patients, or high-touch surfaces **Reservoir** like doorknobs.

### **HOW TO BREAK IT**

Hand hygiene, cover your cough and sneeze and follow cleaning processes

#### THE LINK

How the pathogen is carried from one place to another: generally hands or dirty cleaning cloths.

Hand hygiene, negative airflow control, isolation precautions (contact, droplet, airborne).



Mode of **Transmission** 



**Portal of Exit** 

#### The way the pathogen leaves the reservoir:

being picked up from a surface on a hand, or through a cough/sneeze

#### **HOW TO BREAK IT**

Hand hygiene, wear PPE, don't come to work when you are sick and proper waste disposal