Project Firstline

Project Firstline gives frontline staff the infection control and prevention tools and information they need to protect themselves, their facility, their family and their community from infectious disease threats, such as COVID-19.

Encourage your staff to join today

hanys.org/project_firstline

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Recognizing Risk Using Reservoirs
- How Did the Germ Spread
- Bringing It Together
- Conclusion

POLLING QUESTION

What is your roll in your organization?

a. Infection Prevention

b. Quality

c. Nursing

d. Technician/aide

e. Administrator

f. Environmental Services

g. Non-patient facing

What type of healthcare facility are you working in?

a. Hospital in-patient

b. Hospital out-patient

c. Skilled nursing facility or nursing home

d. Outpatient office or clinic

e. EMS

f. other

Recognizing Risk Using Reservoirs

Recognizing Risk

- **Risk Recognition:** Seeing the potential for a problem to happen.
  - Seeing a potential problem doesn't mean the problem will definitely happen!
  - We take action to keep something bad from happening.

- **Reservoir**: a place where germs live and thrive.

- **Pathway**: a way for germs to be spread from their reservoir to another reservoir, or to a person to infect.

Germs in Healthcare

Reservoirs in the human body: skin, gastrointestinal (GI) system or "gut," respiratory system, blood

Reservoirs in the healthcare environment: water and wet surfaces, dry surfaces, dirt and dust, and devices

Common pathways for germ spread in healthcare:

- Touch
- Breathing in
- Splashes or sprays
- Bypassing or breaking down the body's natural defenses

Elements of How Germs Spread and Cause Infection

Reservoirs

Person

Pathways

Body's defenses

Germ survival

How Did the Germ Spread?

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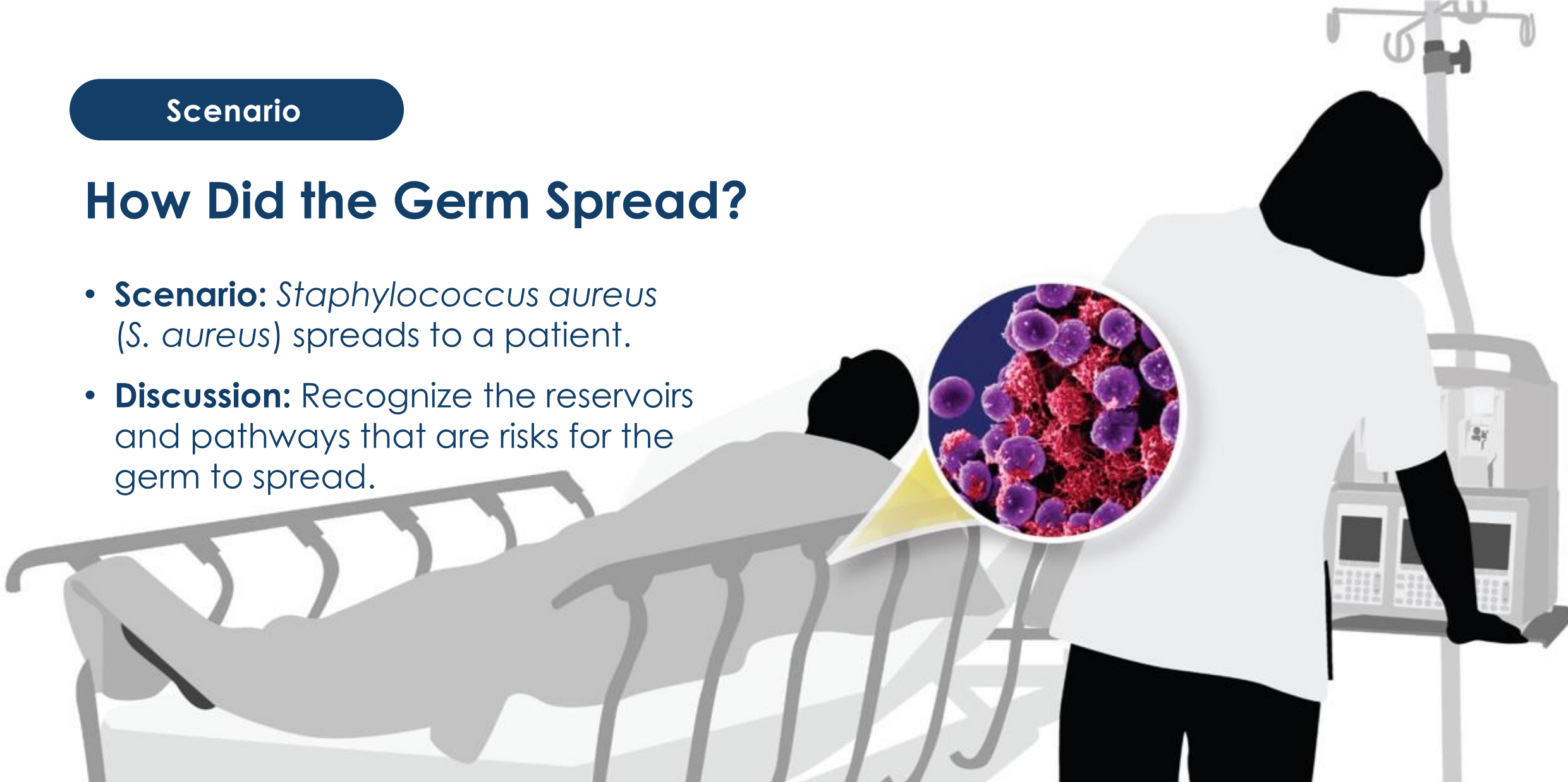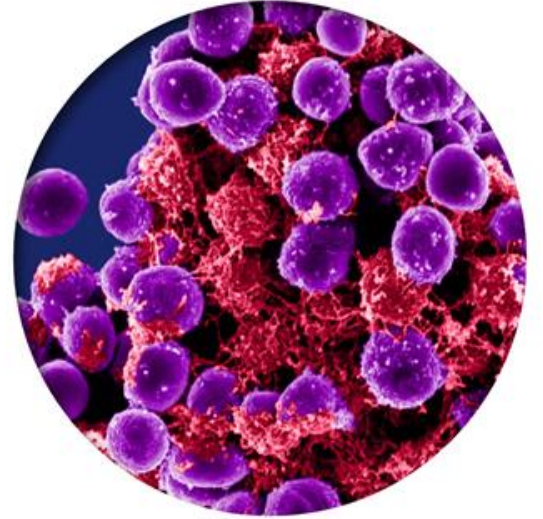
How Did the Germ Spread?

- **Scenario:** *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) spreads to a patient.

- **Discussion:** Recognize the reservoirs and pathways that are risks for the germ to spread.

Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus) Basics

- Commonly called "staph"

- Type of germ (bacteria)

- Common, most of the time does not cause any harm

- Can cause serious or fatal infections

- Some types are resistant to antibiotics

- Anyone can get an infection, but some groups are at higher risk:
  - People with chronic conditions, such as diabetes or cancer
  - Patients in healthcare

From *Staphylococcus aureus* in Healthcare Settings | HAI | CDC

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Identify how staph could be spread by touch in this scenario.

- **Setting:** a patient's room with the patient in bed.

- **Interactions:**

  o A physician conducts a brief physical exam.

  o A nurse checks the patient's vital signs.

  o An EVS technician completes a daily room cleaning.

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Recognizing Reservoirs and Pathways

Reservoirs:

Skin

Gut
Respiratory system
Blood
Water and wet surfaces
Dry surfaces
Devices
Dirt and dust

Pathways:

Touch

Breathing in

Splashes and sprays

Bypassing/breaking down the body's defenses

Reservoirs: *S. aureus*

Reservoirs:

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Pathways: *S. aureus*

Pathways:

Touch

Breathing in

Splashes and sprays

Bypassing/breaking down the body's defenses

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Flash Breakouts

Identify how staph could be spread by touch in this scenario.

- **Setting:** a patient's room with the patient in bed.

- **Interactions:**
  - A physician conducts a brief physical exam.
  - A nurse checks the patient's vital signs.
  - An EVS technician completes the daily room cleaning.

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Discussion

Challenge

Infection control actions that could decrease or eliminate the risk of germ spread include:
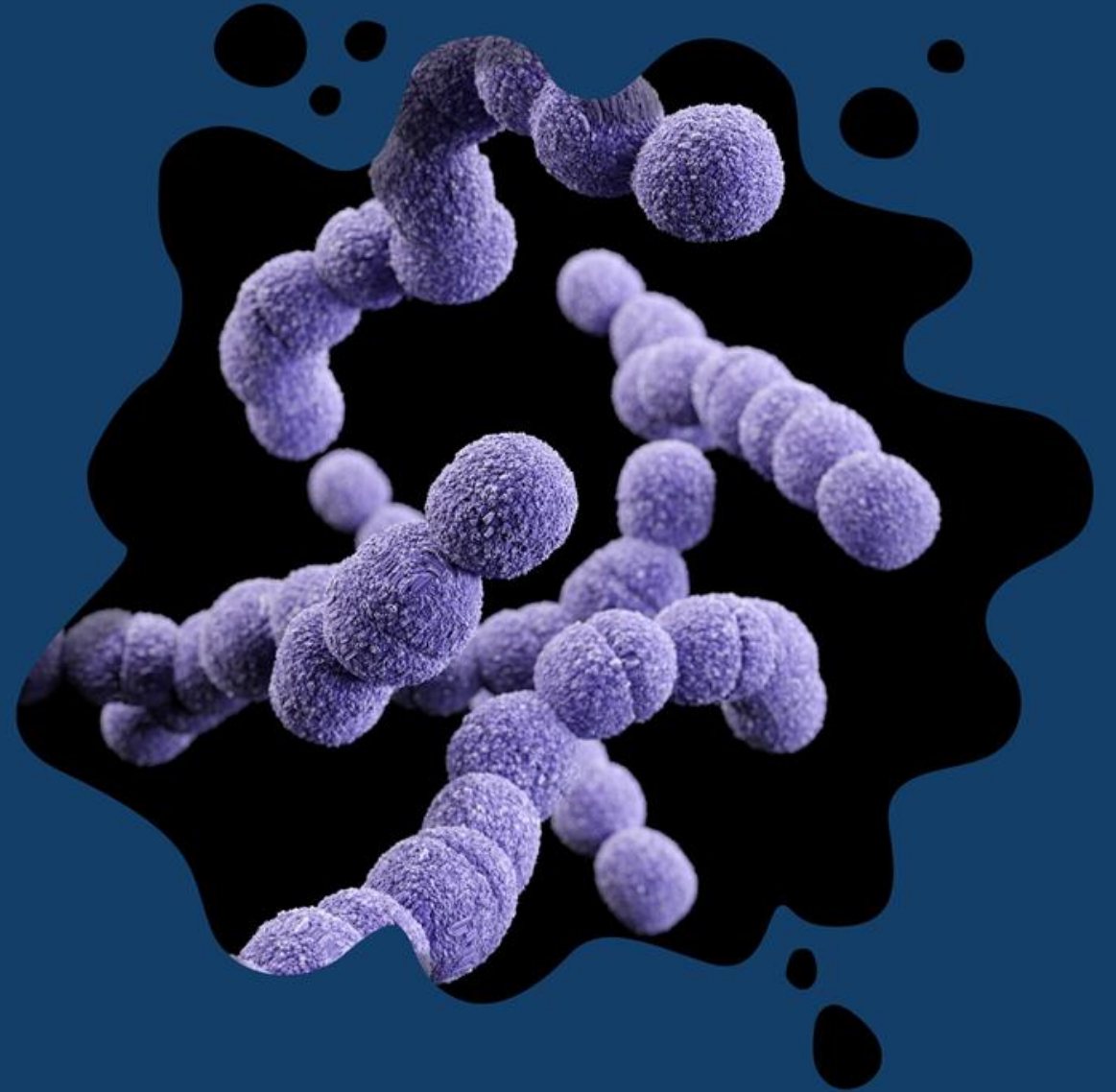
- Better hand hygiene
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Using gowns and gloves
- Decolonization of patients
- Education of staff

Bringing It Together

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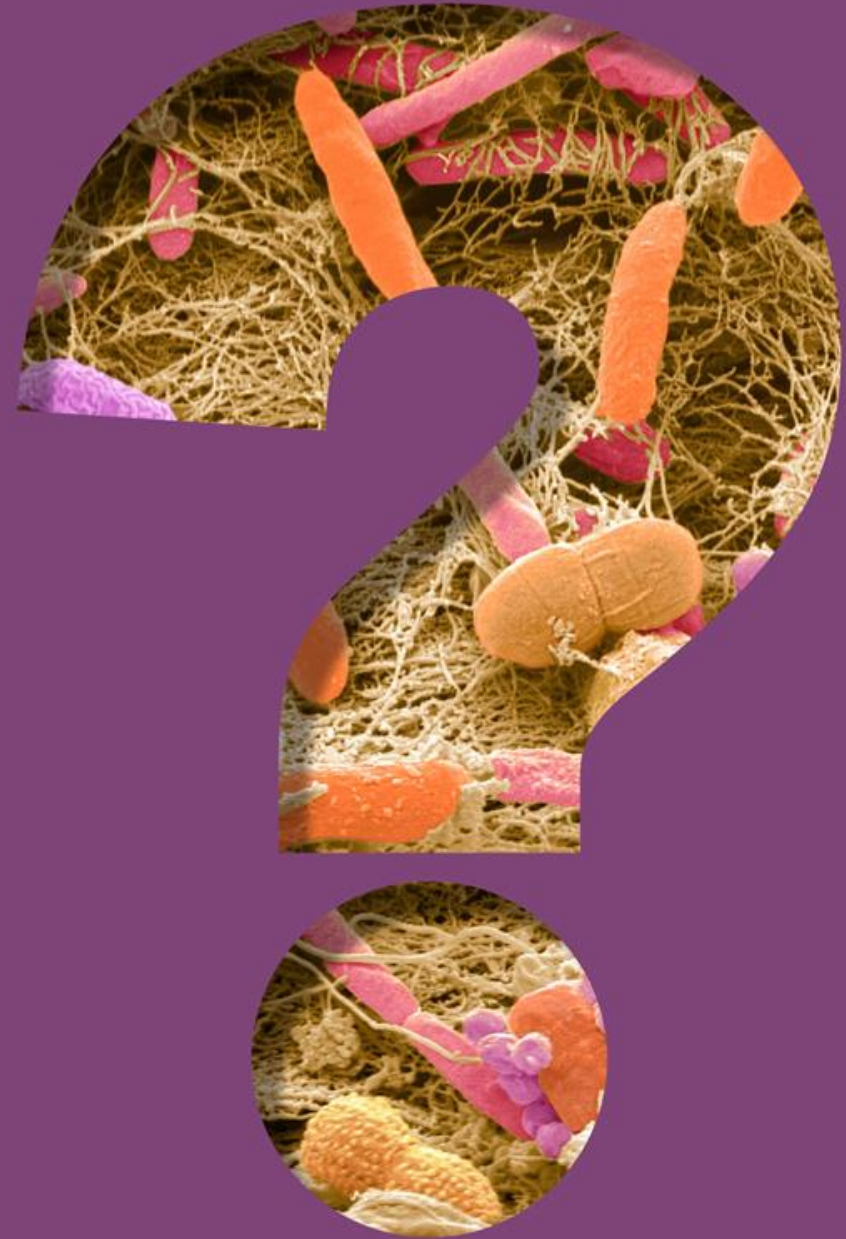
Reflection

- Thinking about your daily work, what is one step that you can take to recognize an infection risk?

- Jot down one action you can take to stop the spread of germs.

Questions

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Conclusion

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Key Takeaways

✓ Germs are found in certain places – called reservoirs – and need a pathway to spread to other places and people.

✓ When you understand where germs live and how they might be moved from one place to another or to people, you can recognize the risk for it to happen.

✓ When you recognize risks for germs to spread, you can choose the right infection control actions to keep it from happening.

Project Firstline

Infection control and prevention training
Tailored for the healthcare workforce

Recordings (hanys.org/project_firstline)

- The concept of infection control training
- The basic science of viruses
- How respiratory droplets spread COVID-19
- How viruses spread from surfaces to people
- How COVID-19 spreads: A review
- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection
- Source Control in healthcare to prevent infections
- Hand Hygiene
- What does it mean to recognize risk?
- How germs make people sick
- Recognizing a risk-a review

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Always There for Healthcare

How to Get Involved and Feedback

🌐 Project Firstline on CDC.gov: https://www.cdc.gov/infection control/projectfirstline/index.html

Ⓕ CDC's Project Firstline on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CDCProjectFirstline

🐦 CDC's Project Firstline on Twitter: https://twitter.com/CDC_Firstline

▶ Project Firstline *Inside Infection Control* on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvrp9iOILTQZQGtDnSDGViKDdRtIc13VX

✉ To sign up for Project Firstline e-mails, click here: https://tools.cdc.gov/campaignproxyservice/subscriptions.aspx?topic_id=USCDC_2104

- Project Firstline feedback form: https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/projectfirstline/TTK-ParticipantFeedback-508.pdf

- Placeholder for partners to add their own links

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