

# PROPER HAND HYGIENE IS CRUCIAL IN INFECTION CONTROL.

## WHERE IS THE RISK?

Know where germs live to stop spread and protect patients



- Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers can come into contact with hazards and contaminants while at work.
- Blood, equipment, and wet/dry surfaces are common places for germs to hide.
- If proper hand hygiene is not practiced, before, during and after patient care, these germs can infect you and your patient.

## Germs That EMS Providers Face at Work

- *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph, including MRSA) on **Skin**
- Hepatitis B, C, & HIV in **Blood**
- *C. difficile* on **Equipment & Devices**



## EMS Tasks Involving Harmful Germs

- Lifting and Transporting Patients
- Putting in an IV
- Wound Packing and Controlling Bleeding

## Infection Control Actions to Reduce Risk

- With soap and water, lather and scrub all surfaces of the hand, including under wrists & up wrists for at least 20 seconds.
- If water and soap is unavailable, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer as an alternative.