



# Airborne Pathogens

Airborne pathogens are infectious microorganisms that can be transmitted through the air and have the potential to cause disease. There are three types:

- Viral
- Bacterial
- Fungal

These Pathogens include but are not limited to:

- Tuberculosis
- Meningitis
- Influenza
- Pneumonia
- Coronavirus (COVID-19)

How could you be exposed?

- An infected persons cough or sneeze
- Microbes can remain suspended in air on dust particles, respiratory, and water droplets
- Droplets can remain suspended for several hours

Occupational exposures should be reported immediately after they occur, particularly because countermeasures are most likely to be effective if administered as soon after the exposure as possible.

## **Hand Washing Is The Best Line of Defense Against All Infectious Disease**

When you are unable to wash your hands Hand sanitizer can be used that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Cover coughs and sneezes. Remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Immediately wash your hands afterwards with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or with hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.