

**Happy  
Infection Control  
Week!**

## IPAC Fast Fact # 3



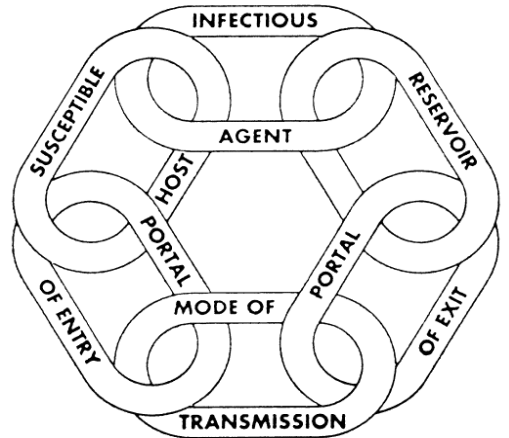
REGIONAL INFECTION  
CONTROL NETWORKS

*Giving Health a Helping Hand*

# The Chain of Transmission

### Did You Know?

- The Chain of Transmission is the way all infectious diseases spread
- The goal of infection prevention and control practice is to break a link in the chain to prevent the transfer of microorganisms



### Links in the Chain of Transmission

- **Infectious agent:**  
A microorganism that is capable of producing infection. Examples include bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites.
- **Reservoir:**  
The place where an infectious agent can live. For example, in or on humans, on objects and surfaces in the environment.
- **Portal of Exit:**  
The point where the infectious agent leaves the reservoir. Examples include non-intact skin and respiratory secretions.
- **Mode of Transmission:**  
How the infectious agent travels from one host to another. For example, contact, droplet and airborne routes.
- **Portal of Entry:**  
The point where the infectious agent enters the new host. For example, non-intact skin, respiratory tract, GI tract, mucous membranes.
- **Susceptible Host:**  
Any person who is at risk of infection. Age and immune system function can increase infection risk.