

Debunking the Myths About Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer

HAND HYGIENE 101

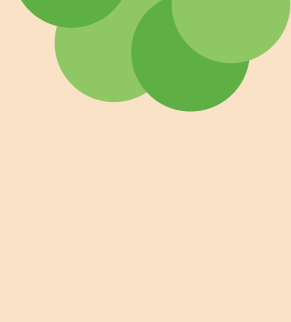


MYTH #1

All germs are the same

THE TRUTH

There are two types of germs: **resident** and **transient**



RESIDENT GERMS are normal inhabitants of the skin.



TRANSIENT GERMS, which may cause illness, are picked up from touching items and objects in your environment.



Sick person spreads their **germs**



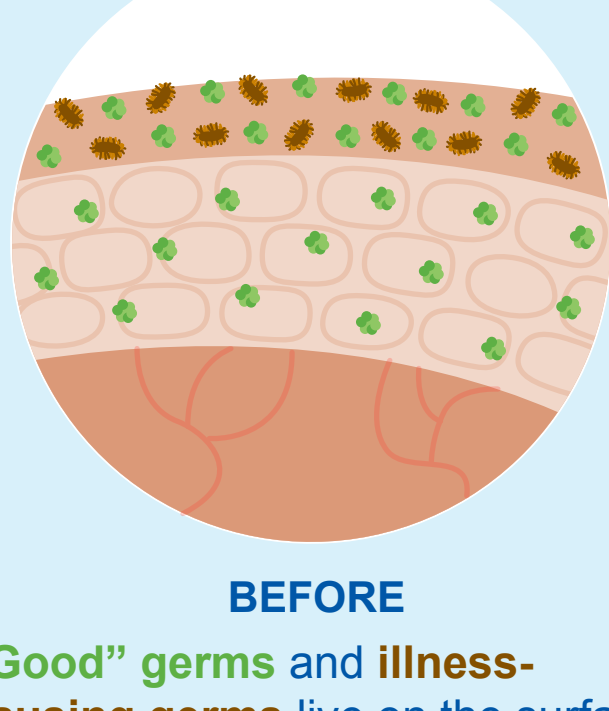
Healthy people pick up **germs** and get sick

MYTH #2

PURELL® Hand Sanitizer kills all the good germs on hands

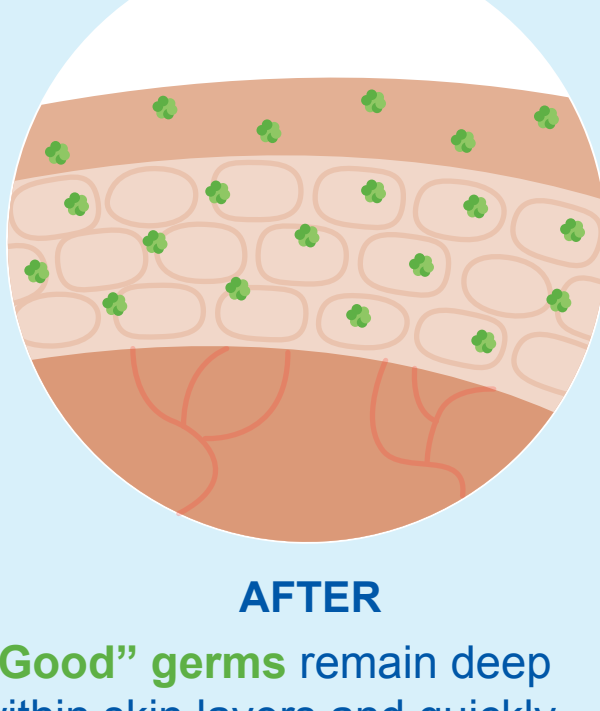
THE TRUTH

PURELL Hand Sanitizer kills **99.99%** of germs on the **surface** of your hands, however “good” germs remain deep within skin layers and quickly grow back.



BEFORE

“Good” germs and **illness-causing germs** live on the surface of skin. “Good” germs also live deeper within the skin layers.



AFTER

“Good” germs remain deep within skin layers and quickly grow back.

MYTH #3

Using hand sanitizer creates antibiotic resistance or supergerms

THE TRUTH

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers **DO NOT** cause antibiotic resistance or create supergerms

There is a lot of confusion and some emerging concerns around antibiotics and antibacterial products today.

These products are not the same.



Alcohol-based hand sanitizer

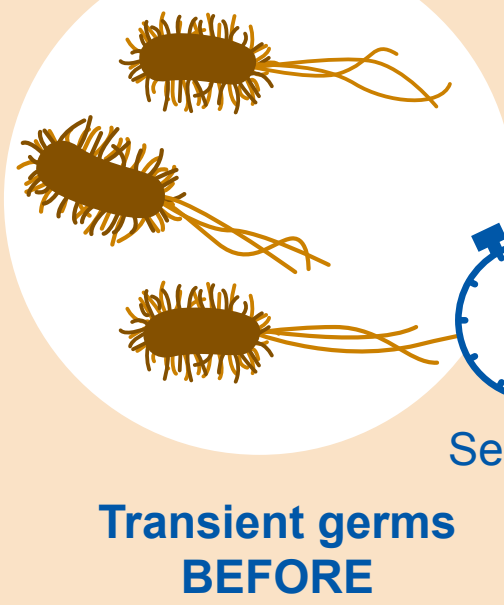


Anti-bacterial soap

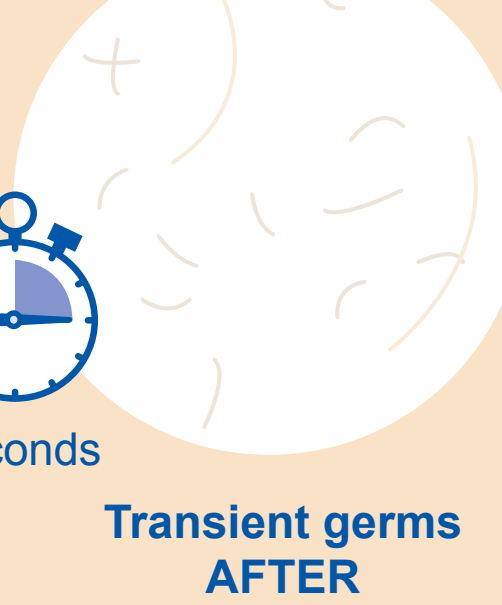


Antibiotics

Alcohol-based hand sanitizer kills germs by **destroying germ cell walls instantly** and evaporates quickly so there's no chance for germs to become resistant.



Transient germs BEFORE



Transient germs AFTER

MYTH #4

Alcohol-based and non-alcohol-based products are the same

THE TRUTH

Experts like **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, **World Health Organization**, and **Health Canada** recommend alcohol-based hand sanitizers over any other type of hand sanitizer¹

¹ Refer to World Health Organization, http://www.who.int/gpsc/tools/faqs/system_change/en/; Health Canada, <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/diseases-maladies/hands-mains-eng.php>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/hands/handwashing.html>

MYTH #5

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers contain triclosan

THE TRUTH

PURELL Hand Sanitizer does **NOT** contain triclosan



Alcohol is the active ingredient. If you're not sure, **read the label!**

MYTH #6

PURELL Hand Sanitizer dries out hands

THE TRUTH

Formulation matters. PURELL Hand Sanitizer contains natural moisturizers and is proven to maintain skin's natural condition

Studies show PURELL Hand Sanitizer is gentler on hands than soap and water because it does not strip natural lipids away from hands.²

² Boyce JM, Kellner S, Vallande N. Skin irritation and dryness associated with two hand hygiene regimens: soap and water handwashing versus hand antiseptics with an alcoholic hand gel. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol.* 21:442-448, 2000.

