

Debunking the Myths

6 Common Myths About Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer

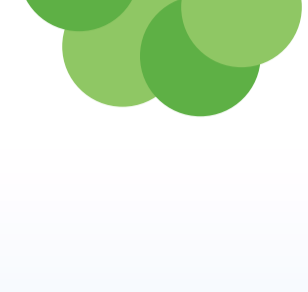


MYTH #1

All germs are the same.

TRUTH

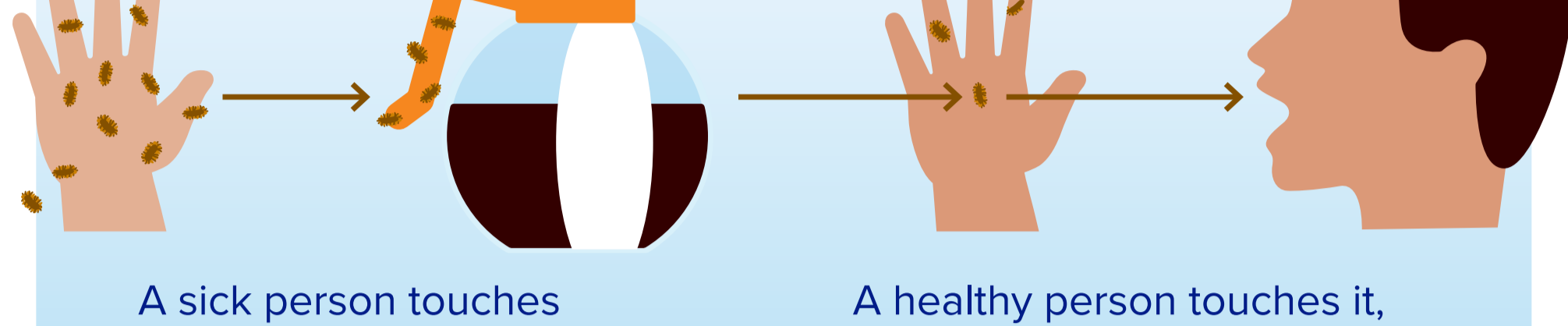
There are two types of germs: **RESIDENT** and **TRANSIENT**



RESIDENT GERMS are normal inhabitants of the skin.



TRANSIENT GERMS may cause illness. They are picked up from touching things.

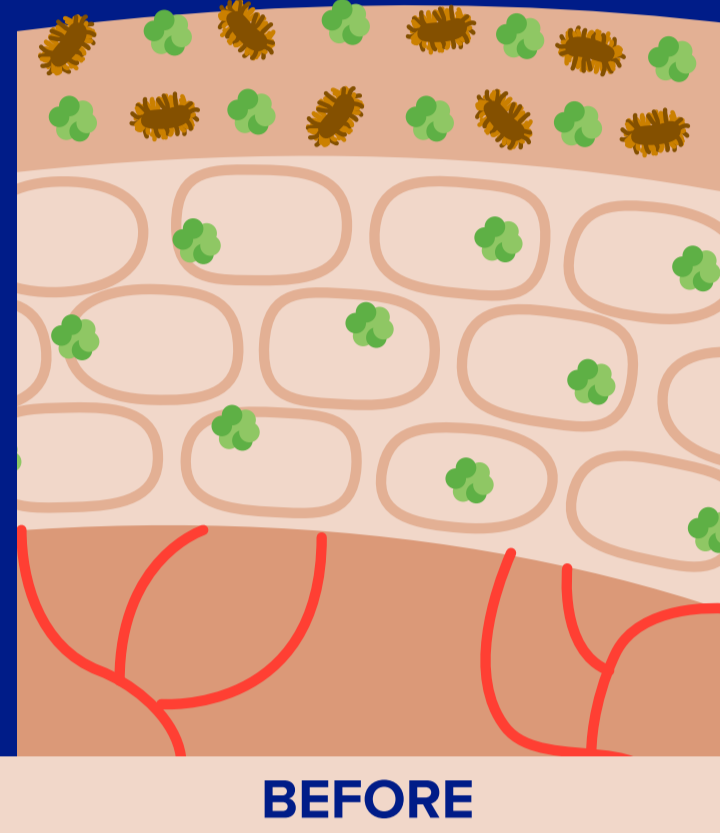


MYTH #2

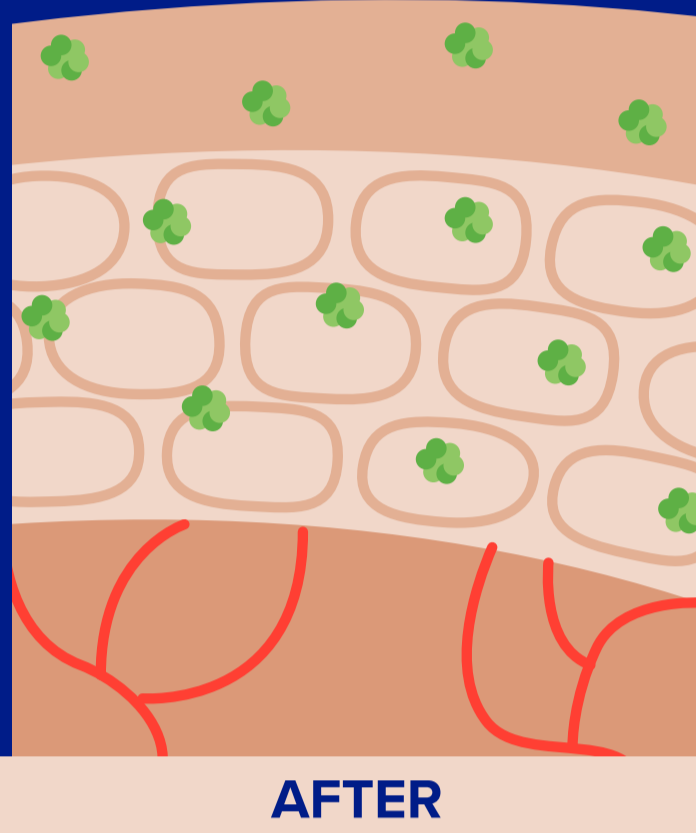
Hand sanitizer kills all the good germs on hands.

TRUTH

Sanitizer kills germs on the surface of hands. Good germs remain deep within skin layers and can quickly grow back.



BEFORE



AFTER

Good germs and illness-causing germs both live on the skin's surface. Good germs also live deep within skin layers.

The good germs deep within skin layers remain untouched while the good germs on the surface quickly grow back.

MYTH #3

Using hand sanitizer creates antibiotic resistance to supergerms.

TRUTH

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers do not cause antibiotic resistance or create supergerms.

There is confusion around antibiotics and antibacterial products today. **These products are not the same.**



ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER

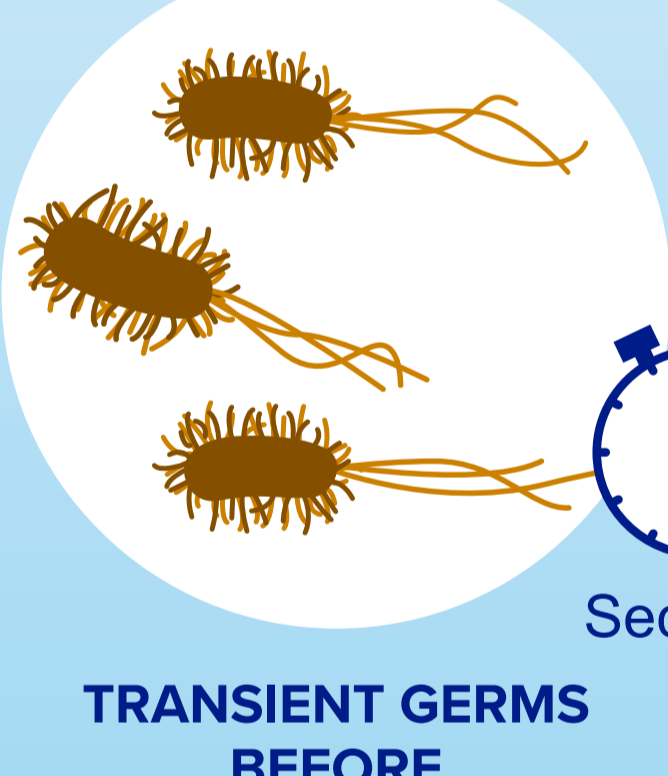


ANTIBACTERIAL SOAP

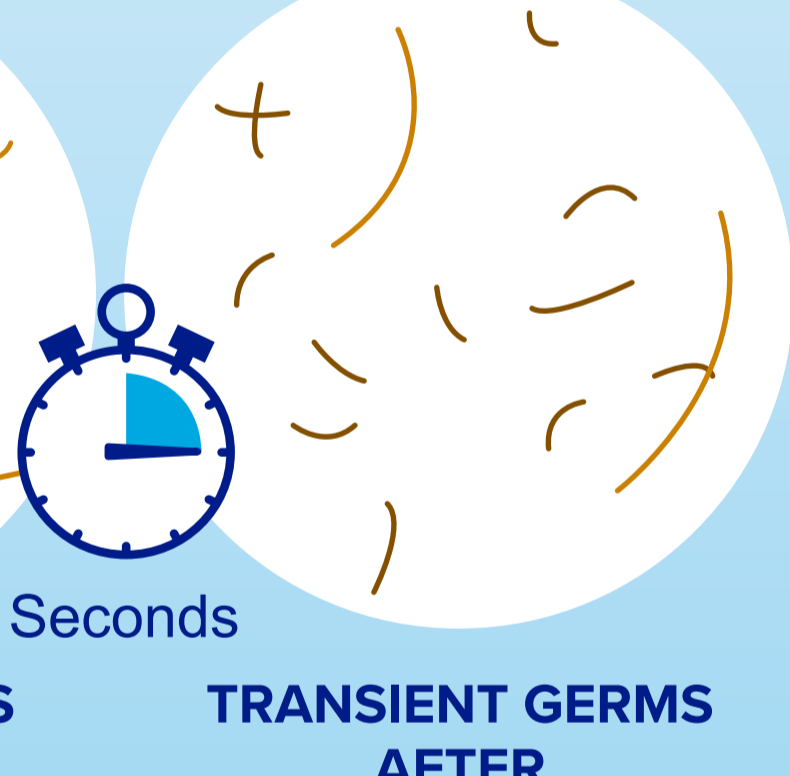


ANTIBIOTICS

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

Seconds

MYTH #4

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

TRUTH

Experts like the CDC, WHO, and Health Canada recommend alcohol-based sanitizers over any other type of hand sanitizer.¹



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

MYTH #5

PURELL® Hand Sanitizer dries out hands.

TRUTH

Formulation Matters: **PURELL Hand Sanitizer** contains moisturizers that are proven to maintain skin health.

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

MYTH #6

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers contain triclosan.

TRUTH

PURELL Hand Sanitizer DOES NOT contain triclosan.

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/lyh/vsv/diseases-maladies/hands-mains-eng.php>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/hands/handwashing.html>. CDC, WHO, and Health Canada have not endorsed PURELL® products.

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

