

Pseudomonas in the NICU

What is Pseudomonas?

- Pseudomonas aeruginosa is a germ or bacteria found in soil, water, plants and animals.
- It is able to grow and survive in standing water and solutions containing disinfectants.
- In newborns, Pseudomonas is mainly found in the stool.

Can Pseudomonas be treated?

- Yes. If there is a Pseudomonas infection, antibiotics are usually given.
- Sometimes Pseudomonas is found but there is no infection. This is called the carrier state. Treatment is usually not needed.

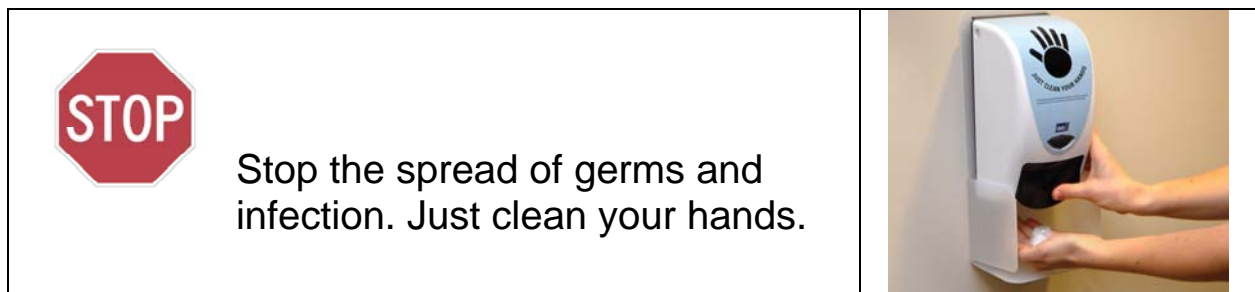
How is Pseudomonas spread?

- Pseudomonas is spread by touching babies who have it or by sharing things that they have used.
- It is found on counter tops, faucets, tile grout, and in sinks.
- Using Contact Precautions helps prevent the spread of Pseudomonas.

What are Contact Precautions?

Contact Precautions help reduce the risk of spreading infection to babies, visitors and staff. If your baby has Pseudomonas, he or she is put in Contact Precautions. This means:

- A sign is put up to let staff, parents and visitors know about contact precautions.
- When entering the area or room, everyone must clean their hands and wear the gowns and gloves provided.
- Anyone, including parents, helping with your baby's care must wear a gown and gloves.
- Before leaving the room, everyone must take off their gowns and gloves and clean their hands.



This fact sheet provides basic general information only and is to be used as a quick guide, not as a complete resource on the subject. If you have any further questions, ask Infection Prevention & Control, your physician or health care provider.