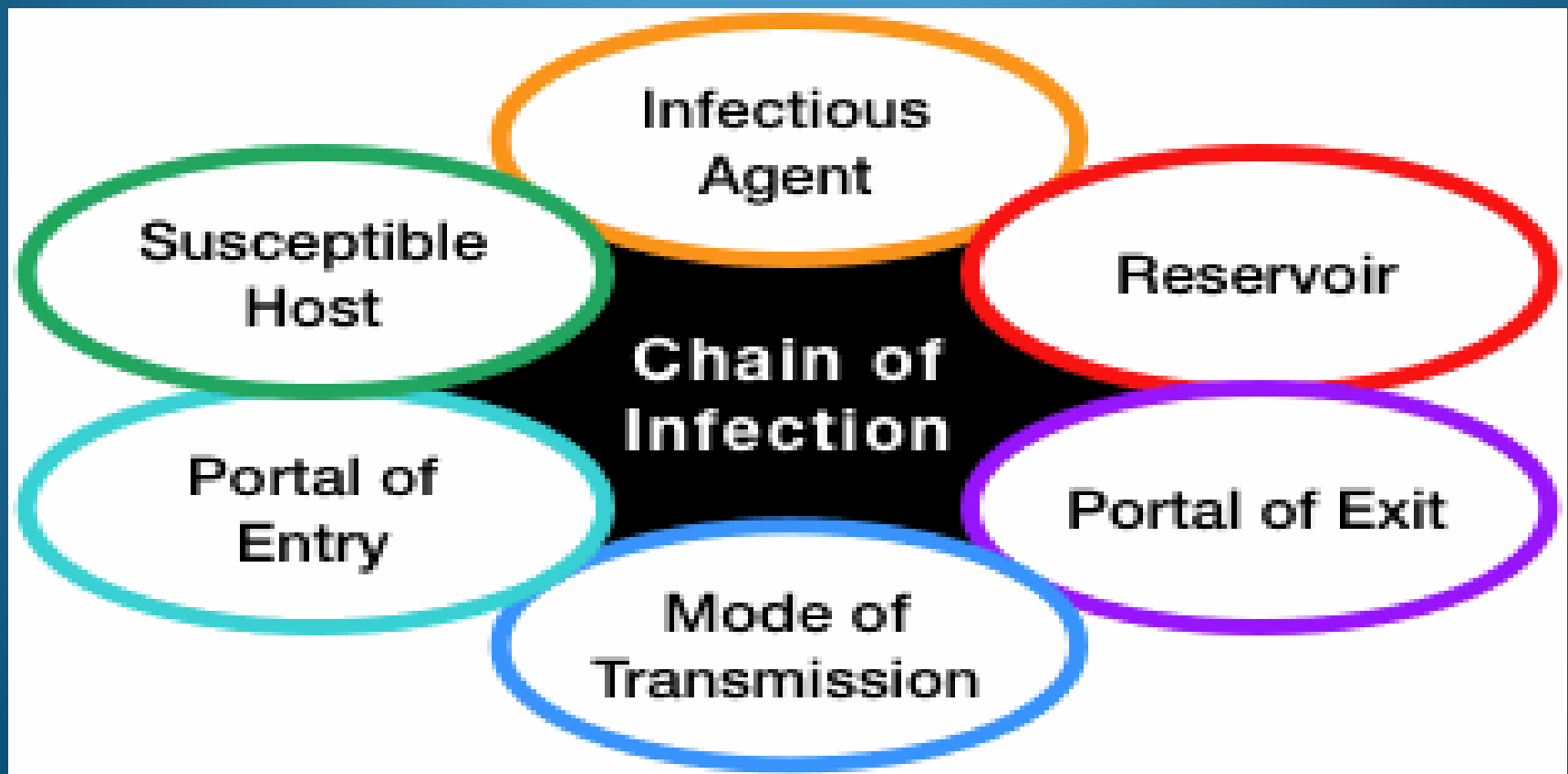


The Chain of Infection



Infectious Agents

- The three main groups of micro organisms are:
 - Virus
 - Bacteria
 - Fungi

The reservoir

- The reservoirs is where the micro organisms, eg: bacteria, virus and fungi can live and can multiply
- This can be a resident, patient, visitor and/or staff
- The surrounding environment and equipment can also act as a reservoir

Portal of exit

- The means by which the micro organisms are transferred from the reservoir. E.G. from a commode via the hands, thus the hands are the portal of exit.
- Human portals can include :
 - Airbourne spread
 - Bodily fluids
 - Skin 'flakes'
- Non human : equipment that has not been cleaned properly
 - re usable equipment
 - mattresses

Mode of transmission

How the micro organisms
are spread indirectly e.g.

hands

airborne

surfaces

Methods of transmission

- Direct and indirect contact
- Faecal – oral
- Airbourne
- Blood bodily fluids
- Vertical transmission

Entry portal

- This is how the micro organisms gain entry
- Which can be via:

Open wounds

By being breathed in

Swallowed

Catheters

Treatments that include opening up intact skin eg
surgery

Feeding tubes

Injections

Susceptible host

Healthy individuals usually have their own defences to help fight infections.

More susceptible individuals such as the

- Elderly
- Young
- Those with underlying health conditions
- Malnourished individuals

Infectious agent

- Simply the micro organism that causes the problem.
- Most micro organisms play a role in keeping us healthy.
- The problem occurs when they leave their 'normal' place and gain entry to the body. E.g. E Coli

MRSA

C.Diff



Breaking the chain

By simply breaking one link in the chain we can halt the spread of infection

How to wear a face covering correctly

