CLEANING AND DISINFECTING
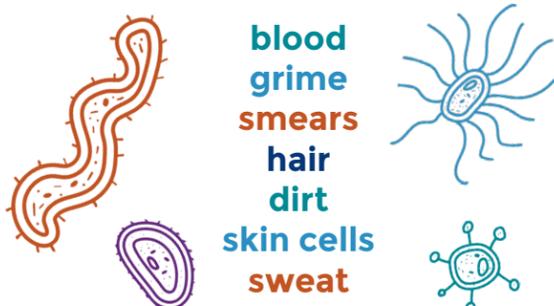## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

CLEANING

Cleaning is the process of removing dirt, germs, and other gunk that you get on surfaces and objects

Cleaning and disinfection are both very important. They keep infections from spreading in healthcare settings.

But how? Let's focus on how they are different.

Cleaning removes

GUNK

blood
grime
smears
hair
dirt
skin cells
sweat

that you can see, but also

GERMS

that are **unseen**.

Sometimes this is enough. Other times, you need to disinfect to kill germs so that we can **reduce the risk of getting sick.**
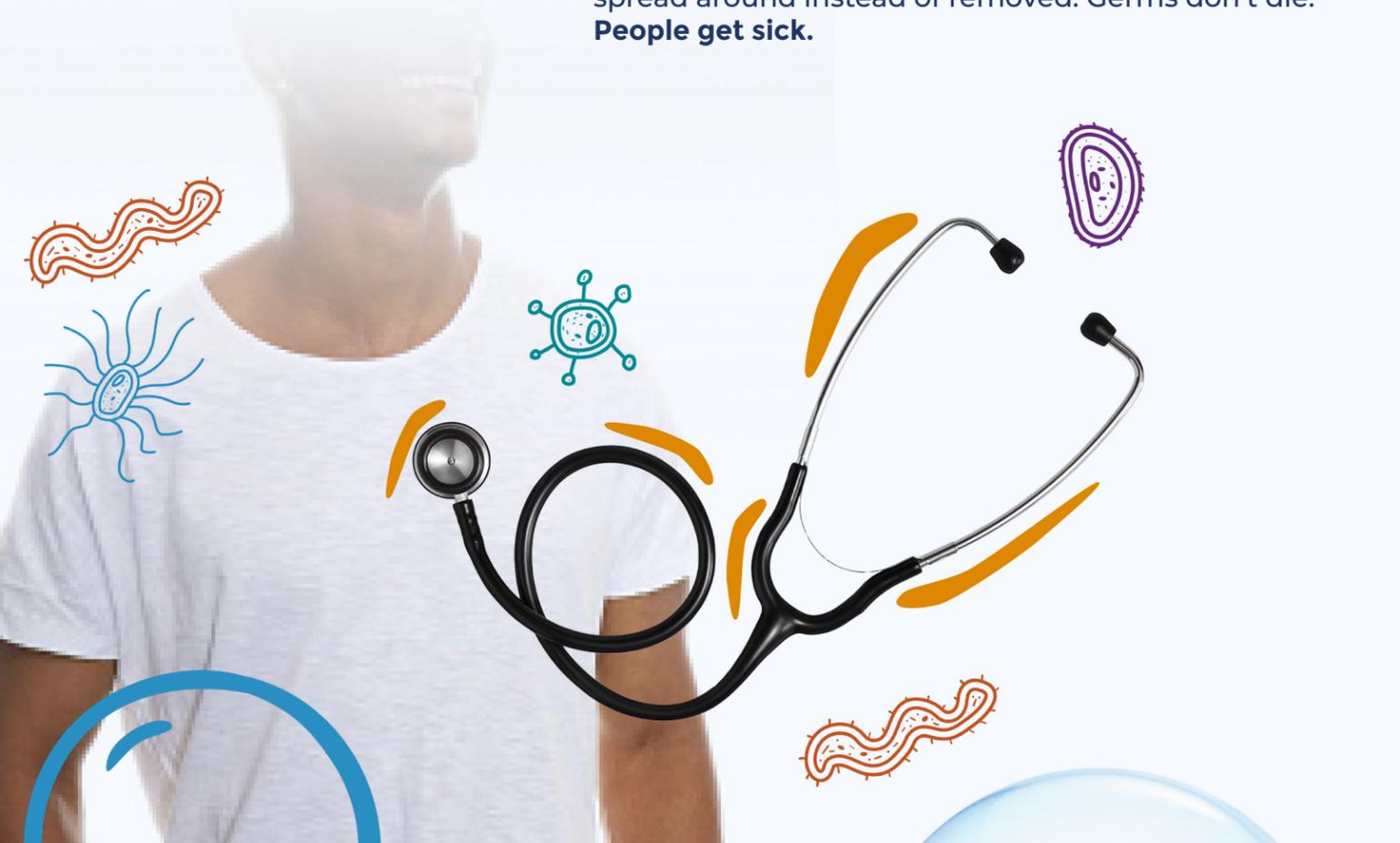
REMEMBER

Disinfection shouldn't come before cleaning

THEY EITHER HAPPEN

At the <u>same time</u> in a single product or with <u>cleaning first</u> in a <u>two-step process</u> of cleaning & disinfecting

DISINFECT TO KILL GERMS

But WHY does this order matter?

If the surface isn't clean, disinfection won't work. Disinfectant can't get through the gunk. Gunk is spread around instead of removed. Germs don't die. **People get sick.**

So, you can see why

CLEANING & DISINFECTING
ARE BOTH IMPORTANT