



# Infectious Diseases



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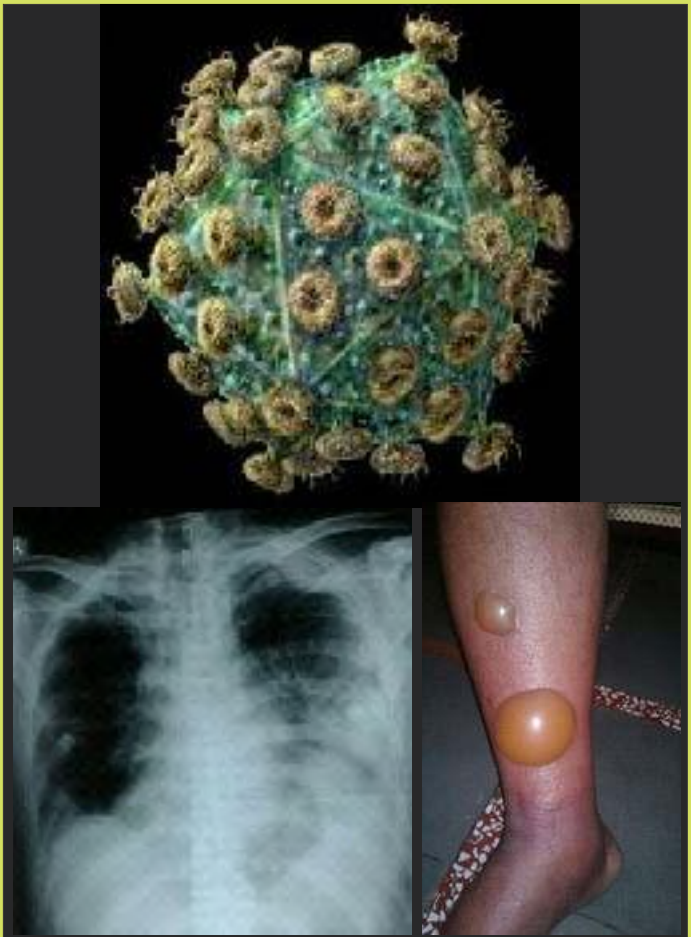
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## What are Infectious Diseases?

Infectious diseases (ID) refer to the diseases spread by infectious agents like bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites.

They are unique in that they involve all medical specialties. While diseases in other fields remain relatively constant; infectious diseases evolve rapidly due to alterations in the pathogens, the host, and the use of antimicrobial agents.

Most of the infections can be cured if diagnosed early, accurately and treated appropriately.



## Role of an Infectious Diseases Specialist

The expertise of ID specialist becomes important for the appropriate management of infections like

- MDR & XDR tuberculosis
- Infections in HIV patients
- Emerging tropical and viral infections
- Infections in the immunocompromised like nocardia, mucor, aspergillus, cryptococcus, cytomegalovirus, pneumocystis etc.
- Infections due to highly resistant bugs

A relentless increase in the antibiotic resistance, together with an increase in the number of immunocompromised patients (due to age, chronic diseases, cancer chemotherapy, transplantation etc) has made Infectious diseases an indispensable specialty.

## Immunization

- Vaccination for prevention of infectious diseases- In this era of globalization, increasing life expectancy, growing population of immunocompromised, migration and increasing international travel, vaccination is of utmost importance.
- The knowledge of 'whom not to vaccinate' is equally important as 'whom to vaccinate'.



- Timely and complete immunization ensures safety against a number of life threatening infections and saves a lot of money and manpower which gets involved in their treatment.

## Travel Medicine

Travel medicine is devoted to the health of travelers who visit foreign countries. It is an interdisciplinary specialty concerned not only with prevention of infectious diseases during travel but also with the personal safety of travelers and the avoidance of environmental risks.

It includes pretravel risk assessment, pretravel advice, immunization of the travelers and post-travel care.

## Infection Control & Antimicrobial stewardship

Infection control has always been a neglected part of patient care in most of the hospitals in our country. This has been responsible for the increasing number of hospital acquired infections and poor patient management outcomes. The injudicious use of antibiotics has led to the widespread appearance of multidrug resistant organisms, thereby limiting the antibiotics left to treat. The economical burden as a result is huge.

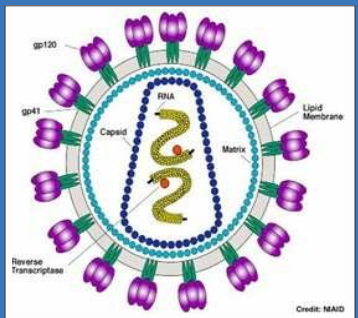


## Your 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene



## Infectious Diseases at CIMS hospital

- ◆ Availability of full time Infectious diseases consultant with expertise in the treatment of infections due to MDR organisms, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, complicated community acquired infections, infections in immunocompromised patients, tropical infections etc.
- ◆ Treatment of hospital acquired infections and complicated infections in ICU patients.
- ◆ Vaccination for healthy as well as immunocompromised adults.
- ◆ Travel health related advice.
- ◆ Strict implementation of infection control policies in the hospital.
- ◆ Practice of antimicrobial stewardship.





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