

Trachoma

A young child (particularly those under 5) has an infection with *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

The child's eyes might be red, itchy, painful, with pus draining from them. The child can pass the infection in **3 main ways**:

1 Flies

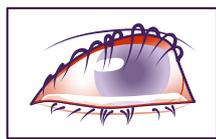
A *Musca sorbens* fly may land on the child's face, where it feeds on ocular and nasal discharge. The fly then lands on the eyes of another individual and transmits *C. trachomatis*.



NOTES:

M. sorbens flies are less attracted to faces without ocular/nasal discharge.

M. sorbens flies breed preferentially in human feces on the ground. When used, latrines limit breeding grounds for flies.



NOTES ON INFECTION:

After multiple infections with *C. trachomatis* over many years, a person (usually older adults) may develop trachomatous trichiasis (TT), which can lead to irreversible blindness unless corrected through surgery.

2 Fingers

The child with trachoma touches his/her eyes, then touches the hands or face of another child, transmitting infection.

NOTE:

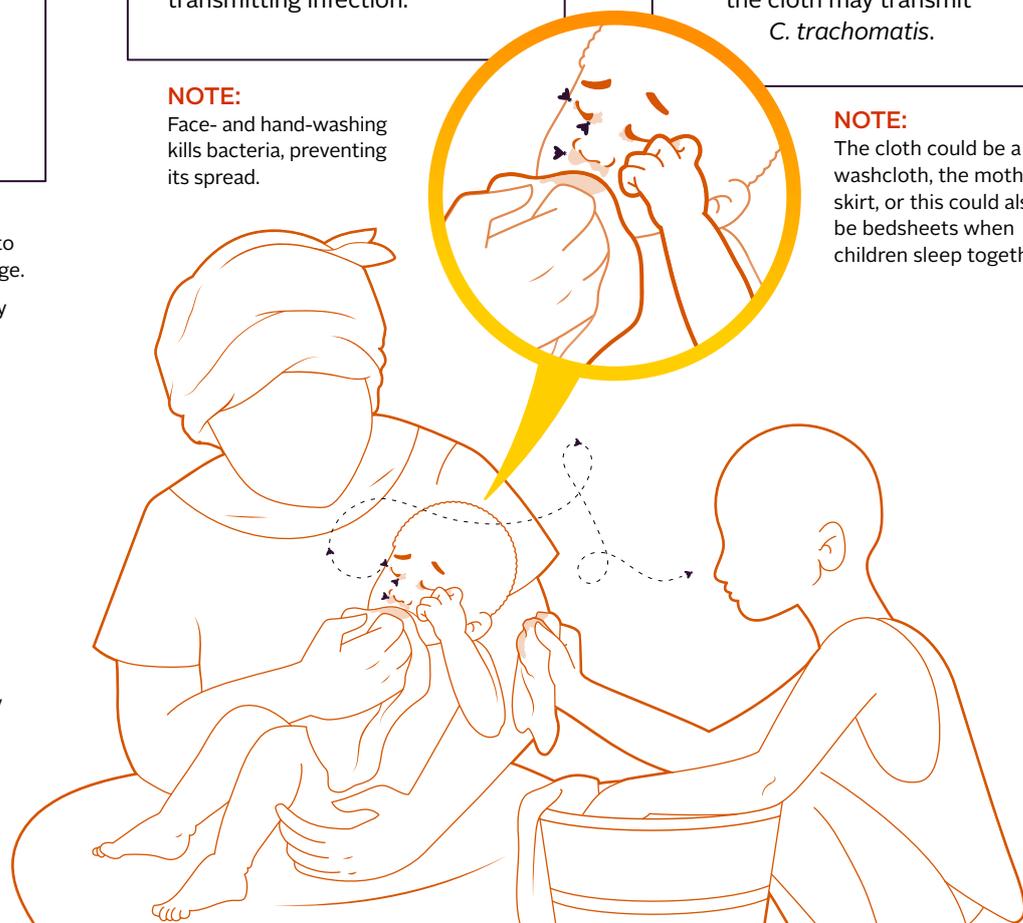
Face- and hand-washing kills bacteria, preventing its spread.

3 Fomites

A cloth is used to wash the infected child's face. If used to wash another child's face, the cloth may transmit *C. trachomatis*.

NOTE:

The cloth could be a washcloth, the mother's skirt, or this could also be bedsheets when children sleep together.



Trachoma can be eliminated as a public health problem through the **SAFE Strategy**:

Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness, Environmental improvements

Surgery

Surgery to correct advanced trachoma, (TT), to prevent further damage to vision/blindness.

Antibiotics

Zithromax® and tetracycline eye ointment to treat infections among entire populations where active trachoma (trachomatous inflammation follicular, or TF) is $\geq 5\%$ among children 1–9 years of age

Facial cleanliness

- Clean water — availability and usage
- Face- (and hand-) washing with soap
- Using separate washcloths

Environmental improvements

- Clean water — availability and usage
- Washing clothes/bedsheets
- Latrine construction/usage
- Open defecation-free villages
- Fly control
- Distancing garbage from homes
- Distancing animals from homes



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Act to End
NTDs
W E S T

fhi360
THE SCIENCE OF IMPROVING LIVES