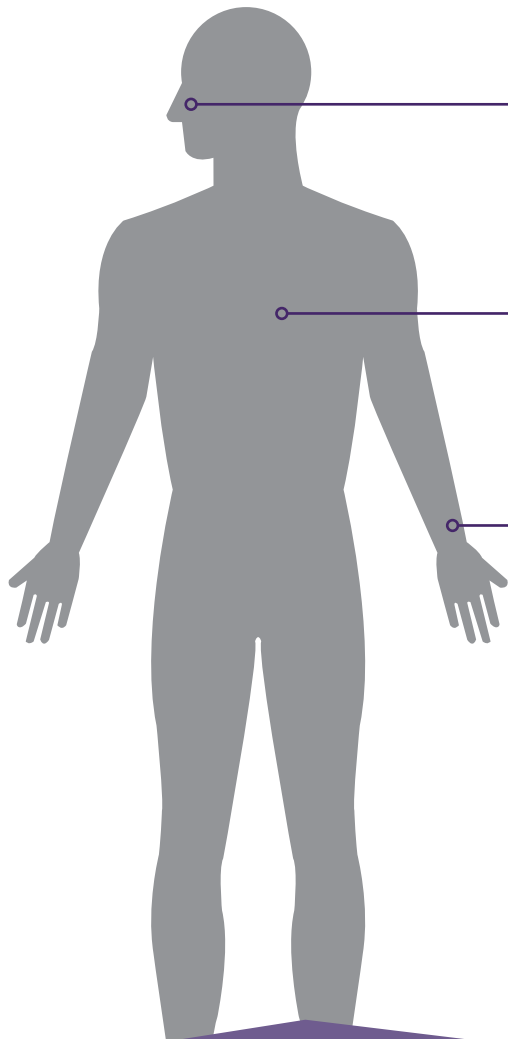




How do airborne contaminants enter the body?

There are 3 main ways airborne contaminants can enter the body.



Ingestion (swallowing) is less likely, but may occur if workers eat, drink or smoke without washing hands after being exposed to contaminants.



Inhalation (breathing) is the main entry for airborne contaminants. Lungs have a large surface area that can trap dusts and also allow contaminants to enter the blood easily.



Some substances, like solvents and oils, can enter the body through the skin. You can also absorb contaminants through the eyes.



Employers must ensure that workers and others at the workplace are not exposed to levels of airborne contaminants above the workplace exposure limits.

