

Chapter 23 Parent Letter and Activities

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The present focus of your teen's health studies is communicable diseases, which are a leading cause of death in the world. According to the Centers for Disease Control, there are over 62 million cases of the common cold annually in the United States. About 84 percent of these cases affect children under age 17, resulting in 22 million school-loss days. Other, more serious, communicable diseases, such as hepatitis, various strains of influenza, tuberculosis, and AIDS, remain a pressing concern for the health community. In class, we will identify the types of pathogens that cause disease. Your teen will learn prevention strategies to help him or her stay healthy. In addition, we will discuss how today, infectious diseases have the potential to spread quickly throughout the world.

The following topics will be discussed in this chapter:

- Understanding Communicable Diseases.
- Common Communicable Diseases.
- Fighting Communicable Diseases.
- Emerging Diseases and Pandemics.

Your participation in your teen's health education is important. To support our classroom work, please complete at least one of the following activities with your teen. Discuss with your teen the difference between a virus and bacteria. Ask your son or daughter to explain why viruses are especially difficult for the body to combat. Inspect your home with your teen. Check the bathroom(s) for the presence of soap and towels to encourage hand washing. Discuss ways to diminish the chances of contracting diseases. Explore with your teen recent scientific breakthroughs in disease prevention and cures. Learn more about the diseases for which cures are currently being researched.

Please plan other activities you think will help your son or daughter develop an awareness of communicable diseases. Thank you for supporting our classroom work. Feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss your teen's health education.

Sincerely,

Health Teacher

Please read our [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Notice](#) before you explore our Web site. To report a technical problem with this Web site, please contact [Technical Support](#).