

# Communicable Disease

Obj. 5.4: Differentiate between communicable and noncommunicable disease.



## Picture This:

Examine the image below. Then answer the questions that follow.



Image: Zack Hample, Used with permission

1. Describe the people in the image? What do you notice that might be different from normal?
2. Why do you think some of these people are wearing surgical masks?
3. Would this be a common sight in the United States? Why or why not?

## DISCUSS

### Under the Weather

Think about the last time you were sick and discuss the following questions with a partner.

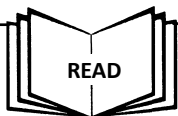
- What were your symptoms?
- Do you know what kind of illness you had?
  - *If so, what was it?*
  - *If not, why didn't you know?*
- How did you get sick?



### Communicable & Non-Communicable Disease

Review the chart about the differences between communicable and noncommunicable disease:

	Communicable Disease	Noncommunicable Disease
<b>Definition</b>	An illness caused by some specific biological agent that is transmissible (e.g., from person to person, from animal to person, etc.). These are also known as <b>infectious diseases</b> .	A medical condition or diseases which is <b>non-infectious</b> and cannot be transmitted between people or animals. Also known as non-infectious, these may be chronic disease of long duration and slow progression (e.g. osteoporosis), or they may progress rapidly (e.g. stroke)
<b>Modes of Transmission or Methods of Acquiring</b>	Can be <b>transmitted</b> from an infected person, animal, or inanimate (not alive) reservoir to a host. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sneezing (airborne)</li> <li>2. Unwashed hands</li> <li>3. Food/Water</li> <li>4. Animals</li> </ol>	Usually occur due to genetics (heredity) or developed by lifestyle choices (e.g, smoking) or environmental exposures (e.g., air pollution), or some combination of those factors
<b>Examples</b>	H1N1 Flu Virus Pink Eye (conjunctivitis) West Nile Virus Common cold E.Coli infection	Heart Disease Arthritis Asthma Fractured bone Migraines



### Infectious Diseases at School

Read the CDC fact sheet entitled, “Infectious Diseases at School” and answer the questions below:

1. What is one of the major negative effects of infectious disease among school-aged children?
2. Why do infectious diseases spread so easily in schools?
3. What can schools do to prevent the spread of infectious diseases?
4. What is one major cause of foodborne illness? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Approximately what percentage of the U.S. population acquires the seasonal flu each year? \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_%
6. What is one of the BEST ways to keep from getting sick and spreading infectious illnesses?
7. How should one cough or sneeze in order to best prevent spread of infection?

**DISCUSS**

### Noncommunicable Diseases Among Schoolchildren

What common illnesses or conditions occur in school-aged children that are **noncommunicable**?



#### Communicable or Noncommunicable?

For each of the diseases below, conduct research to determine whether they are communicable or noncommunicable. Be sure to explain the evidence that demonstrates whether or not they are infectious.

Disease or Condition	Communicable or Noncommunicable?	Evidence
Athlete's Foot		
Ear infection		
Lyme Disease		
Asthma		
Hand, Foot, & Mouth Disease		



#### Your Turn!

In the space below, identify one communicable disease and one noncommunicable disease and explain one possible way they are transmitted or acquired. (Note: Do not use any illnesses already provided as examples in this lesson.)

- a. One **communicable** disease is \_\_\_\_\_, which is transmitted by...
- b. One **noncommunicable** disease is \_\_\_\_\_, which is transmitted by...



## Investigation: Policies on Communicable Disease

**Challenge:** You are a public health professional who specializes in creating and enforcing policies regarding infectious diseases in workplaces, schools, and public facilities. Your first assignment on this new job is to determine what policies exist in schools and daycares regarding these illnesses.

**Directions:** Choose one location besides your own school (e.g., a daycare, preschool, elementary, high school, or university). Ask permission to interview a school official about the policies (ensure they know your goals and purpose). Answer the following questions based on their responses:

- 1) What policies exist regarding communicable disease?
  
- 2) When do students need to go home?
  
- 3) When are they allowed back? Is a doctor's note or parent note required?
  
- 4) What illnesses are most commonly seen among children in this institution?
  
- 5) Are illness-related absences tracked? If so, how many absences on average, does each child have per year due to illness? (An estimate is okay if data is not available).
  
- 6) Are these policies formally written and distributed among students and parents or kept informally?
  
- 7) What challenges or problems does the school face regarding infectious illnesses?
  
- 8) Are there any policies or requirements regarding proof of immunizations?
  
- 9) Would you recommend changes to any of the school policies?