

## Word List and Questions

1. Germ: **pathogen**
2. Organism
3. Infectious: **infect (verb); infection (noun); contagious (syn.)**
4. Infect
5. Transmit
6. Transmission
7. Disease
8. Symptom

**Keep the words that you just unscrambled in mind as we discuss the following questions.**

1. What are some infectious diseases you already know about and what are their symptoms?  
Assess whether students are clear about some infectious/contagious diseases without confusing those conditions with genetic disorders such as breast cancer, sickle cell disease, etc. Also, have students talk about whether the symptoms of an infectious disease are always visibly apparent. This relates to the Liquid Exchange activity that follows.

Infectious/contagious diseases and some of their symptoms: Common cold (cough, sore throat, sneezing); flu (fever, muscle ache, headache); HIV infection (similar to flu or showing no specific symptoms for the first several years); mononucleosis (fatigue, weakness, sore throat, fever, swollen lymph nodes and tonsils, headache, skin rash, loss of appetite, night sweats); chickenpox (fever, abdominal pain or loss of appetite, rashes, mild headache, cough and/or runny nose); and pink eye (redness, itchiness, discharges, blurred vision or sensitivity to light)

Resource Web site: <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/DiseasesIndex/DiseasesIndex>

2. What makes these diseases contagious and spread from one person to another?  
Germs that cause diseases can be transmitted and can infect another person in many different ways—e.g., mosquito-borne malaria's coming in contact with infected bodily fluids, drinking water contaminated by feces, etc. Teachers can guide students to consider the transmission method in the exchange activity and make a connection that knowing how a disease spreads can help prevent or slow its spread. Reliable scientific information can help prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
3. To help stop or minimize the transmission of infectious diseases, what information do you think would be important to know and what are some precautions that one could practice?  
The question is about preventing transmission of an infectious disease and not having a treatment or cure. Some prevention ideas are vaccination, washing hands correctly and often, staying home when you have a cold, using treated mosquito nets, building a water treatment system for a community, etc. All of these prevention methods have been developed based on the scientific knowledge of the human immune system and how it works, what the infection-causing germ is and how it spreads, etc.