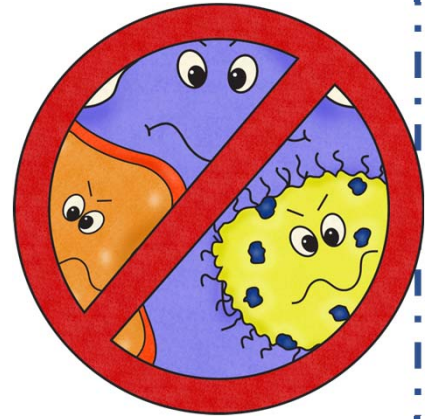


# Germ Patrol!

Germs are tiny organisms that can make us feel sick. There are different types of germs: bacteria, fungi, viruses, and protozoa. These little troublemakers can cause common infections like fevers, sniffles, rashes, coughing, vomiting, and diarrhea. But how do germs get around? There are three ways that germs will travel: direct transmission, indirect transmission and airborne transmission.



Imagine a high-five or a handshake. When people touch each other, germs can jump from one person to another. This is called direct transmission. So, if someone with a cold gives you a high-five, watch out for those sneaky germs!

Germs can also hitch a ride on objects. Let's say someone with a runny nose touches a doorknob. The germs stick to the doorknob. When you touch it next, guess what? You've just met those germs! This is called indirect transmission. So, wash your hands often to keep those germey doorknobs at bay.

Picture tiny germs floating in the air like slightly invisible dust. When someone coughs or sneezes, these airborne germs can travel to someone else. That's airborne transmission! So, cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze to keep those germs from flying around.

While we can't avoid germs completely, we can be germ-fighters! Wash your hands and use soap and warm water to wash away those pesky germs. When you cough or sneeze, use your elbow or a tissue. Keep your toys, gadgets, cell phones and doorknobs clean. Imagine you're a germ-busting superhero, protecting yourself and others! Remember, germs are like tiny adventurers, exploring the world and looking for new hosts. But with a little handwashing and smart strategies, we can keep them in check!

1. *Read the reading passage thoroughly.*
2. *Underline any word or sentence you don't understand.*

Answer according to the reading passage:

**1. What are germs?**

- a. tiny organisms
- b. protozoa
- c. bugs

**2. An example of direct transmission of germs is:**

- a. coughing into a tissue
- b. doorknobs
- c. handshakes

**3. An airborne germ example is:**

- a. coughs and sneezes
- b. coughing into a tissue
- c. pouncing on them

**4. Germs can cause?**

- a. fevers, rashes
- b. sniffles, coughing, vomiting
- c. all of above

**5. If we are very careful, we can avoid all germs:**

- a. true
- b. false

# Germ Patrol

## Open Response Questions

Open response questions for thinking skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. How could you investigate how germs spread in the classroom and what could you do to help stop the spread?
  2. What can you do to protect yourself from germs when you are in public places?
  3. What is the main idea of this reading passage?
  4. Describe what you think a germ actually looks like if you had a strong microscope.
- Why do you think some people catch more colds, flus and sickness than other people?
  - List all the areas that are high touch areas in your school and your home. Why should you wash your hands well after being in contact with high touch areas?
  - Identify as many ways of direct transmission, indirect transmission and airborne germs that you can think of.
  - Write about the different types of germs: bacteria, fungi, viruses, and protozoa