**Vocabulary:** **Disease Spread**



**Vocabulary**

* Contagious – the ability of a disease to be passed from one person to another.
	+ A highly contagious disease will spread easily from one person to another.
* Disease – a disruption of normal body functions.
	+ A disease can be *infectious* or *noninfectious*.
	+ Noninfectious diseases may be caused by environmental conditions, lifestyle choices, mutated genes, or other factors. Noninfectious diseases are not caused by *pathogens*.
	+ Examples of noninfectious diseases include most cancers, diabetes, hypertension, rheumatoid arthritis, and sickle cell anemia.
* Epidemic – an unusually rapid increase in the number of cases of a disease.
	+ An epidemic that is restricted to one location is called an *outbreak*.
	+ An epidemic that takes place on two or more continents is called a *pandemic*. A recent pandemic was the spread of the H1N1 virus (swine flu).
* Infect – to transmit a disease.
	+ A person becomes infected with a disease when a pathogeninvades his or her body.
	+ Common ways to become infected include:
		- Person-to-person contact
		- Inhaling a pathogen
		- Eating or drinking contaminated foods
		- Contact with an animal carrying the pathogen
* Infectious disease – a disease caused by a pathogen.
	+ Infectious diseases include AIDS, athlete’s foot, chicken pox, the common cold, hepatitis, influenza (the flu), Lyme disease, meningitis, strep throat, tetanus, tuberculosis, West Nile virus, Covid-19, and many others.
* Pathogen – an agent capable of causing disease.
	+ Examples of pathogens include bacteria, viruses, prions, fungi, protists, and parasitic worms.