



## Vocabulary: Disease Spread



### Vocabulary

- 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 pathogen invades 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, and many others.
- Pathogen – an agent capable of causing disease.
  - Examples of pathogens include:
    - Bacteria
    - Viruses
    - Prions
    - Fungi
    - Protists
    - Parasitic worms

