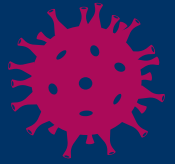


STEP SUPPLEMENTAL HAZARD LESSON

PANDEMICS



Helping Us Stay Healthy Listening Activity



WORD BANK

Immunity

Lab

Viruses

Microscopes

Diseases

Healthy

Washing

Pandemic

Germs

Mask

Brianna: Hi, I'm Brianna. Today is Take Your Child to Work Day, and I'm going to work with my dad. I've been to the _____ where he works once on the weekend, but today, all the scientists he works with will be there.

He works at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which everyone shortens to its initials, CDC. The CDC helps to protect our health. It does research on _____ and how to control and cure them. My dad studies pandemics. That word might sound familiar because of the recent one that made so many people sick. I'm going to let my dad explain since he's the expert.

Dad: Brianna, I'm so glad you are able to come with me to work today! You are absolutely right, my job is to study pandemics. A _____ is an outbreak of a disease that spreads around the world and can make a lot of people sick. Some of these diseases are new to humans so we have not developed _____. This means most people won't be able to fight it off easily.

Brianna: Is that what happened with COVID-19?

Dad: Yes, it is. Pandemics can be caused by _____ like bacteria and viruses. Coronavirus Disease 2019, or COVID-19 as most people call it, is called a novel pandemic because this is the first time that humans have gotten sick from this specific virus. Although you can't go into the labs, you can see through a window how scientists are studying germs that make people sick.

Brianna: Wow, they are wearing masks and protective clothing over their whole bodies. I can only see their eyes! I see scientists looking into _____. We did that at school, and it made tiny things look huge.

Dad: That's what they're doing here. Bacteria or _____ are too small to see with your eyes, but a microscope magnifies them so much that you can observe what they look like.

There are a couple of other things that can cause pandemics. Fungi is one. Mushrooms and mold are examples of fungi. Most can't make you sick, but some can. Another cause of pandemics can be parasites. These are organisms that live on or inside other living things and feed off them. Some can cause disease.

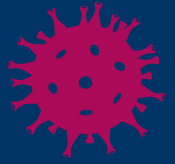
Brianna: I hate getting sick and feeling yucky. Is there anything I can do so I stay well in a pandemic?

Dad: Absolutely. Some of the same things you do to prevent getting a cold. Some diseases can spread through droplets that our bodies create when we talk, breathe, cough, or sneeze. We call this "direct transmission." Some diseases can spread through "indirect transmission," like when many people touch the same things, such as doorknobs or computer mice.

You can help slow the spread of disease by _____ your hands and using hand sanitizer often. Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze. Try hard not to touch your eyes, nose,

STEP SUPPLEMENTAL HAZARD LESSON

PANDEMICS



or mouth because those are the places germs can get into your body. When you feel sick, don't go to school or hang out with your friends.

There are more things you can do during a pandemic to protect yourself. Make sure you stay at least six feet apart from other people. That means no crowding together when you're playing or standing in line. You can also be asked to wear a _____ so you don't spread germs when you talk or breathe.

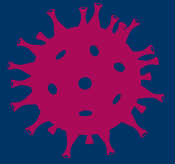
Brianna: Dad, I'm so proud that you work to help people stay _____. I really like seeing where you work. Can you show me the cafeteria now? I'd really like a snack!

Don't forget!



STEP SUPPLEMENTAL HAZARD LESSON

PANDEMICS



Germ Patrol Activity

Directions: Join in the conversation with Brianna and her friends. Help them complete their sentences by writing or typing what you think they might continue to say in their speech bubble.

