

Title:

A Worldful of Germs

Word Count:

929

Summary:

There are many microscopic organisms and particles around us that can cause serious illness

Keywords:

bacterial infections, over-the-counter-drugs

Article Body:

Germs are everywhere. You practically live in a world full of germs. No matter how often you get sick, in every illness such as colds, fever, and sore throat, you can almost be sure that germs are the cause. Although your immune system can protect you from legions of infectious microbes, there are some that can cause serious illness.

Bacteria

Single-celled microorganisms like bacteria have the ability to reproduce through cell-division. But there are certain strain of bacteria that when they get inside your body, you will become ill.

Viruses

Virus, on the other hand, is not a living organism but a capsule that contains genetic material.

Fungi

Fungi are single-celled organisms that are somewhat bigger than bacteria. They are found in the soil, on plants, and in the air.

Protozoa

Protozoa are microscopic, single-celled organisms that are very much similar to animals in behavior.

Helminths

Literally meaning worms, helminths are considered to be among the larger parasites to enter the body.

Safety Advice

Although the common colds can always be treated by over-the-counter drugs, always seek medical attention if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- Difficulty breathing
- A cough lasting longer than a week
- A fever of 100.4 F (38.0 C) or more
- Periods of rapid heartbeat
- A rash, especially if it's accompanied by a fever
- Swelling
- Blurred vision or other difficulty seeing
- Persistent vomiting
- An unusual or severe headache
- Animal or human bite

Let your doctor diagnose you to be sure if you're infected and to know the severity of the infection.

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