

Healthy habits can protect everyone from getting or spreading germs. Simple actions like covering your mouth and nose and washing your hands often, can stop germs and prevent illnesses.

- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- If possible, **stay home from work, school and errands when you are sick**. Your actions may help to prevent others from getting sick.
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when coughing and sneezing. Be sure to put your used tissue in the wastebasket.
- **Wash your hands often** with soap and warm water, taking care to wash your hands for at least 15–20 seconds. When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand wipes or gel sanitizers may also be used.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth**. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.

