

Cover Your Cough



1. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough, sneeze or blow your nose.



2. Put used tissue in the garbage.



3. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve, not in your hands.



4. Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer (minimum 70% alcohol-based).

Stop the Spread of Germs

Always Cover Your Cough

- Covering your cough or sneeze can stop the spread of germs
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve
- Keep your distance (more than 2 metres/6 feet) from people who are coughing or sneezing

December 2012

Stop the Spread of Germs: Always Cover Your Cough

Why should I cover my mouth and nose with a tissue when I cough or sneeze?

Germs such as influenza, cold viruses, and even whooping cough are spread by coughing or sneezing. When you cough or sneeze on your hands, your hands carry and spread these germs. When you touch an object such as a door handle, subway pole, telephone or computer keyboard with unclean hands, you are spreading germs. The next person who touches these objects may pick up germs and get sick if they do not clean their hands before touching their eyes, nose or mouth.

How do I stop the spread of germs if I am sick?

To stop the spread of germs:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough, sneeze, or blow your nose.
- Clean your hands with soap and warm water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve, not into your hands.
- Put used tissues in the garbage.
- Keep your distance (more than 2 metres / 6 feet) from people.
- Stay at home if you are sick.
- Don't share eating utensils (e.g., cups or straws), toothbrushes or towels.

How can I stay healthy?

- Get your flu shot (influenza vaccine) every year.
- Keep your hands clean. Clean your hands with soap and warm water or when hands are not visibly soiled, you can use a minimum 70% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Minimize touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when you touch something that is contaminated with germs and then touch your eyes, nose or mouth with unclean hands.
- Keep your distance (more than 2 meters / 6 feet) from people who are coughing or sneezing.
- Practice good health habits - eat healthy foods, get regular exercise, and get enough rest.

Where can I get more information?

Call Toronto Health Connection: 416-338-7600; TTY: 416-392-0658; or visit our website www.toronto.ca/health.