



Unit 23 — Epidemics, Viruses, and Pandemics

CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

US agency based in Atlanta, Georgia whose main goal is to protect public health and safety through the control and prevention of disease

"The CDC does not generally issue advisories or restrictions for travel within the United States."

contagion

the spread of disease from one person to another by close contact

"Hospitals are optimized to prevent the spread of contagions."

dodged a bullet

avoided a danger

"The traveler really dodged a bullet when he missed the train that ended up crashing."

easily overtake

to overcome or pass without difficulty

"A sports car can easily overtake a truck on the highway."

genetic material

DNA (or RNA in RNA viruses)

"Some scientists believe that much of the human genome is composed of genetic material from viruses."

H1N1

virus strain responsible for the 2009 flu pandemic known as "swine flu"

"The H1N1 virus spread worldwide and has caused 18,500 laboratory-confirmed deaths."

had succumbed to

yielded to something they've tried to fight off such as a disease

"The researchers found that after a tough struggle he had succumbed to pancreatic cancer."

host

an organism on which a parasite derives benefit such as food

"A living cell is the host in which a virus multiplies."

inject

to drive or force into

"The doctor injected a painkiller into the patient's veins."

microscopic

not visible with naked eye

"Protozoa are microscopic, amoeba-like organisms that live in liquid."

miniscule amount of

extremely small number of something

"A minuscule amount of rat excrement is found in common foods such as chocolate or peanut butter."

multiply

increase in quantity

"Mammals multiply by means of sexual reproduction."

mutate

change or adapt in nature

"Viruses sometimes mutate and grow resistant to vaccines."

new strain

a new breed, stock, or variety of something

"A new strain of virus can be immune to treatment."

organism

an individual life form

"The study found that crawfish, frogs, and other organisms had been destroyed over a large area of the estuary."

pandemic

prevalent over a whole country or the world

"Life expectancy statistics from 1918 may have been skewed by an influenza pandemic."

progression

the moving of something towards a more advanced state

"Disease can halt the progression of a human from childhood to adulthood."

WHO (World Health Organization)

an international agency established in 1948 by the United Nations to promote health and control communicable diseases.

"The WHO is a generally neutral and trusted authority in cases of pandemics."