**Zoonotic diseases are diseases that can be spread from animals to people**

**Q:** What types of organisms can be zoonotic?

**A:** A variety of organisms, including bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi

**Q:** What are some examples of zoonotic diseases?

**A:** Rabies, plague, anthrax, toxoplasmosis, ringworm, and avian influenza

**Q:** How are zoonotic diseases spread?

**A:** A variety of ways, including eating, inhaling, or touching the organism or receiving an insect bite

**Q:** Who is at greatest risk for acquiring a zoonotic disease?

**A:** Infants and small children, pregnant women, the elderly, immunocompromised people, and people who work with animals

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How can you protect yourself?

Wash your hands before eating and after touching an animal.

Practice safe food handling to prevent becoming infected with foodborne diseases. For example, after cutting raw meat, be sure to wash the knife and cutting board before using them to cut vegetables or other foods that will be eaten raw.

Wear long sleeves and insect repellent while outdoors (especially in wooded areas).

Clean up after your pet to prevent the spread of zoonotic parasites.

Don’t approach an animal that you don’t know.

Take your pet for annual veterinary check-ups and vaccinations.

How can your vet help protect you and your pet?

By giving your dog or cat regular vaccinations against rabies

By checking for and treating intestinal parasites in your pet

By providing information on special precautions for high-risk individuals (for example, pregnant women, young children, and immunocompromised people)

Speak to your veterinarian about zoonotic diseases today!

Check us out!

The FAZD K-12 zoonotic disease curriculum was developed by principal investigators and researchers at the FAZD Center. This program was developed to evaluate and disseminate a multifaceted program that teaches middle-school students about zoonotic diseases and in the process more generally strengthens their education in science.

To learn more about this curriculum, please visit: http://peer.tamu.edu/FAZD

If you like what you see, please ask your child’s teacher to visit the site and consider using the material in the classroom.