

Public Health Task Force

Your group has been nominated to serve on a Public Health Task Force—and you are needed now! A certain disease may soon become an epidemic in your community. Your team must research the disease, think of ways to limit its spread, weigh the strengths and weaknesses of your strategies, and recommend a public health policy.

Part I

Research the Disease

1 Choose a disease from the list.

- tuberculosis (antibiotic-resistant)
- AIDS
- cholera
- rubella (German measles)
- malaria
- infectious mononucleosis
- scarlet fever
- influenza

2 Find out as much as you can about the disease. Use these questions as a guide, and add your own:

- What is the biological cause of the disease?
- How is the disease spread?
- What methods are available to prevent, treat, or cure the disease?
- What individual actions or circumstances might lead a person to *contract* the disease?
- What social actions or circumstances might influence the *spread* of the disease?

Strategy Summary

Disease: _____

	Describe strategy	Strategy's strengths	Strategy's weakness
Strategy #1			
Strategy #2			
Strategy #3			



Part II

Create a Public Health Policy

1 Once you've learned as much as you can about the disease, it's time to think of strategies to limit its spread. Your policy can include laws, ads promoting awareness, spending on research, and educational programs. Use the chart below to brainstorm and evaluate your strategies.

2 As a team, choose one strategy to recommend. On a separate sheet of paper list your chosen strategy and evaluate it by answering the following questions:

- Why is this the most effective strategy?
- How would you implement this strategy?
- What would be the economic costs of the strategy?
- Who would oppose this strategy? Why?