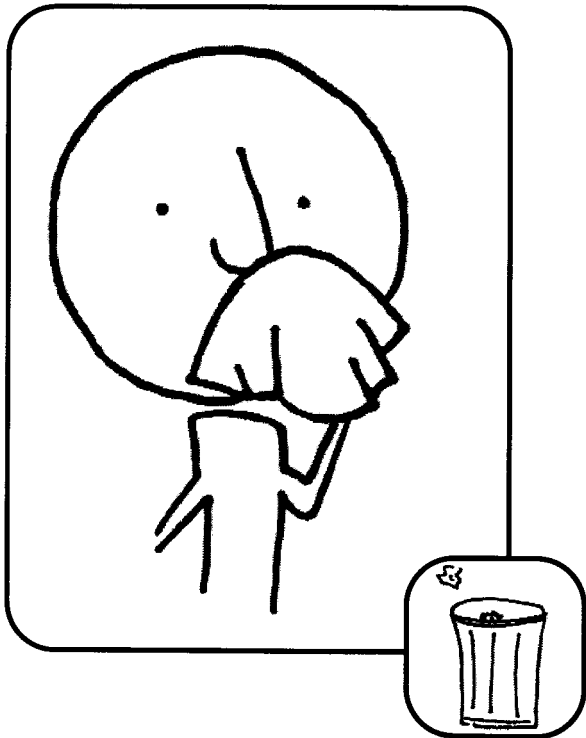


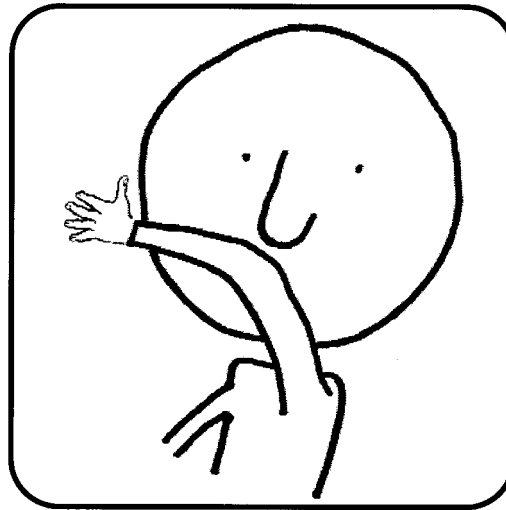
## Why should I cover my cough?

- Serious respiratory illnesses like influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), whooping cough and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) are spread by:
  - Coughing or sneezing
  - Unclean hands
- These illnesses spread easily in crowded places where people are in close contact.



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

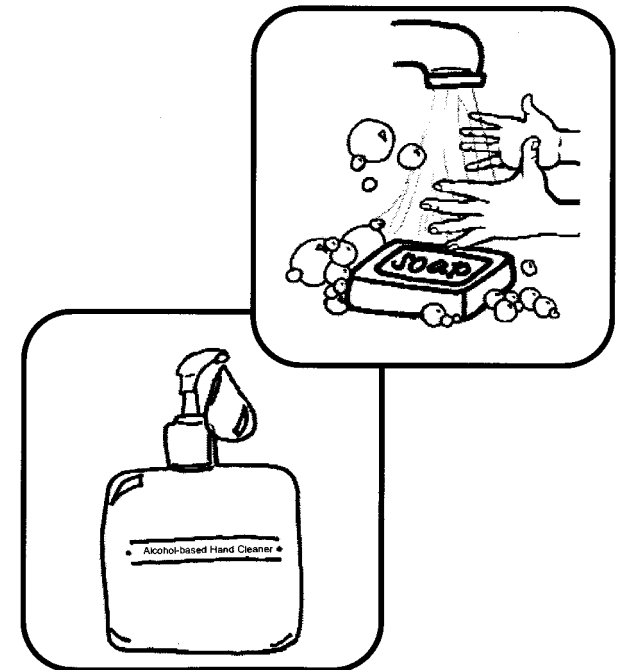
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue every time you cough or sneeze. Throw the used tissue in a waste basket.
- If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve.



- After coughing or sneezing, always clean your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Do not share eating utensils, drinking glasses, towels or other personal items.

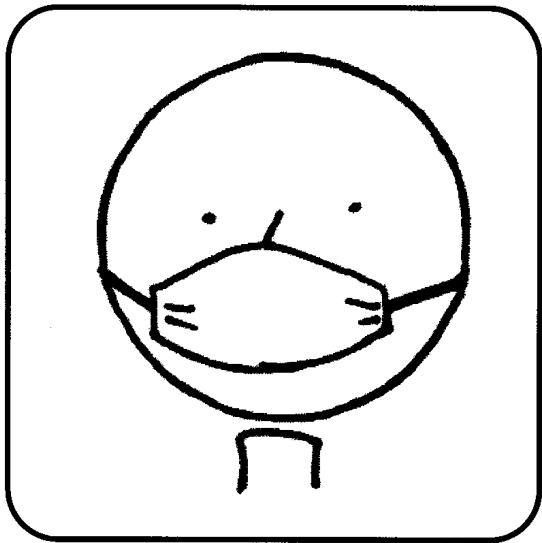
## How can I stay healthy?

- Clean your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, if possible.
- Get vaccinated! Influenza (flu) and pneumococcal (pneumonia) vaccines can prevent some serious respiratory illness.



## While you are at the Hospital:

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and dispose of the used tissue in the waste basket.
- Clean your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.



- You may also be asked to wear a mask to protect others.

- \* **Don't worry if you see staff and other people wearing masks. They are preventing the spread of germs.**

## There's more on the Web.

Turn to The William W. Backus Hospital's web site for up-to-date information on cold and flu prevention and other news.

[www.backushospital.org](http://www.backushospital.org)

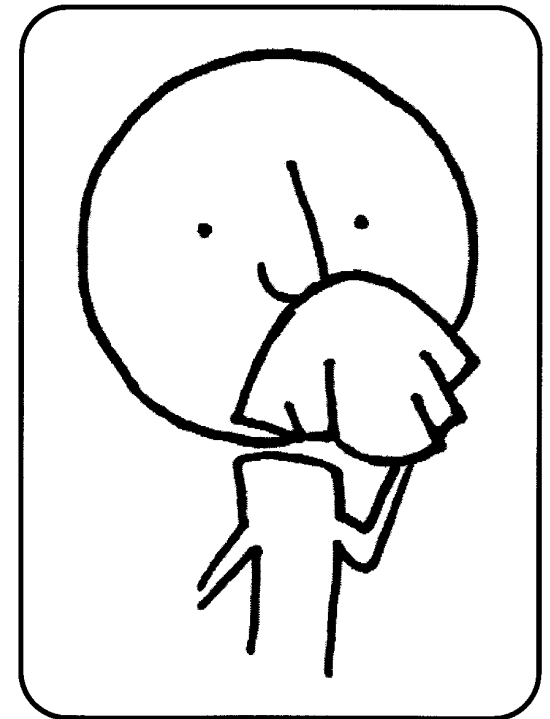


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**Stop the spread of germs  
that make you and others sick.**

# Cover your Cough



Illness prevention tips from The Minnesota Department of Health,  
The Association of Professionals in Infection Control and  
The Minnesota Antibiotic Resistance Collaborative.