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Emerging infectious diseases prevention and control

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Today, infectious diseases present new challenges and new potential for epidemics. Timely recognition of emerging infections requires early warning systems to detect such problems so that they may be promptly investigated and controlled before they evolve into public health crises. In addition, professional expertise, laboratory support and research capabilities are required to address the changing threats from emerging infections. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are on the front lines of the war on disease. CDC disease detectives battle the world's gravest health threats as they occur throughout the world. Each year, the CDC's laboratories receive thousands of specimen's blood, tissue containing unidentified disease causing microbes in search of a diagnosis. Some are so deadly that scientists wear contamination-proof in order to investigate these killer microbes. As with many issues of health, education is a vital part of the battle against the spread of infectious diseases. By learning what threats are posed by emerging infectious diseases and by changing our behavior we can reduce the risk. With all the hi-tech approaches used in combating infectious disease causing microbes, it is important to remember that each individual can play a critical role in preventing and controlling infection. While a healthy immune system is the best defense, basic hygiene, such as proper hand-washing and keeping the kitchen and bathroom clean can help defend against harmful microorganisms.

Biography

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