

Dear Parent,

Your son's or daughter's science class will soon begin exploring the chapter entitled "Body Defenses and Disease." In this chapter, students will learn about disease and the way our bodies react to disease. By the end of the chapter, students should demonstrate a clear understanding of the chapter's main ideas and be able to discuss the following topics:

1. how infectious and noninfectious diseases differ (Section 1)
2. how one might come into contact with a pathogen (Section 1)
3. what methods have helped reduce the spread of disease (Section 1)
4. how the body keeps out pathogens (Section 2)
5. how the immune system works (Section 2)
6. what the purpose of a fever is (Section 2)
7. how allergies and autoimmune diseases differ (Section 2)
8. what cancer is (Section 2)
9. how HIV affects the immune system (Section 2)

### **Questions to Ask Along the Way**

You can help your child learn about these topics by asking interesting questions as he or she progresses through the chapter. For example, you may wish to ask your son or daughter the following questions:

- What is the easiest thing you can do to protect yourself (and other people) from illnesses?
- How does your body protect itself against bacteria that are already inside it?
- What does it mean when someone has an "infectious laugh"?
- How does a vaccine work?

## **The Internet at Home**

If you have Internet service at home, you and your child can access information related to the chapter entitled “Body Defenses and Disease.” The following resources are available for your use.

**sciLINKS:** At [www.scilinks.org](http://www.scilinks.org) you will find links to Web sites that have been selected by the staff at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). The staff at NSTA regularly scans the Internet to find sites that are current, engaging, and appropriate for middle school students. Check out the latest links by typing in the *sciLINKS* numbers listed below.

**GO TO:** [www.scilinks.org](http://www.scilinks.org)

<b>TOPIC:</b> What Causes Diseases?	<b>sciLINKS NUMBER:</b> HSM1653
<b>TOPIC:</b> Pathogens	<b>sciLINKS NUMBER:</b> HSM1118
<b>TOPIC:</b> Body Defenses	<b>sciLINKS NUMBER:</b> HSM0181
<b>TOPIC:</b> Allergies	<b>sciLINKS NUMBER:</b> HSM0048
<b>TOPIC:</b> Cancer and HIV	<b>sciLINKS NUMBER:</b> HSM0208

**go.hrw.com:** The resources at this Web site come to you directly from the publisher of your child’s textbook. Here you will find resources to help your son or daughter better understand the chapter entitled “Body Defenses and Disease.” For example, *Science Puzzlers, Twisters & Teasers* worksheets use the chapter’s vocabulary terms and concepts as a basis for lighthearted yet challenging science fun. For help in generating ideas for science projects, you may refer to *Long-Term Projects & Research Ideas*. You can also turn to the Resources for Parents section of the *Science Fair Guide* for information on planning, preparing, and presenting a science fair project. You can access these materials and other information by entering the keyword below.

**GO TO:** [go.hrw.com](http://go.hrw.com)

**KEYWORD:** HL5BD6

Thank you for your time and interest. Your participation in your child’s education is a sure way to encourage learning!

Sincerely,