



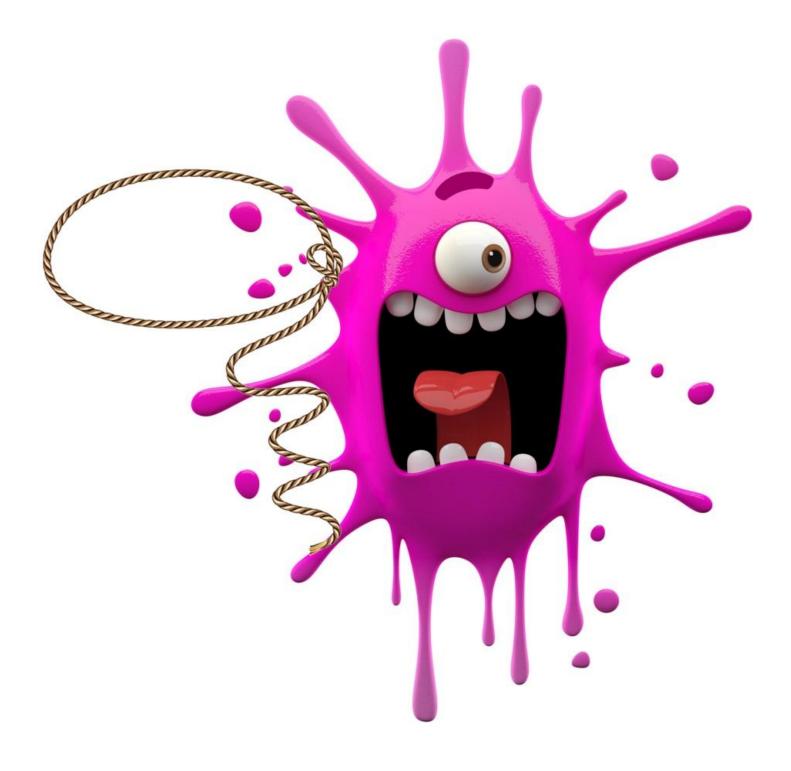


Group A Streptococcus (Strep)



Also known as GAS – but believe me, it's not a gas to make it's acquaintance! Known to hide out in the throat or on the skin of about 20% of us human folk. Wanted (dead) for causing all kinds of infections from strep throat to scarlet fever, flesh eating disease, toxic shock syndrome, pneumonia, blood infection and rheumatic fever. Sneaky critter in that even a minor infection caused by GAS can damage to yer kidneys.

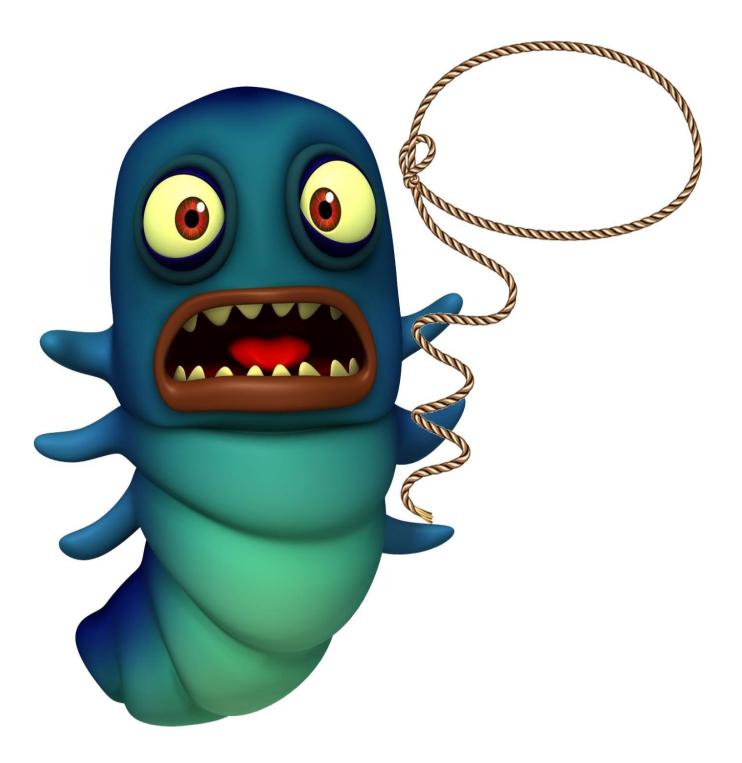
Staphylococcus Aureus (Staph infection)



Able to disguise itself as just "one of the crowd" hanging around on peoples skin and in their respiratory tract. Likes to snuggle up real close to it's own kind and travel in a cluster.

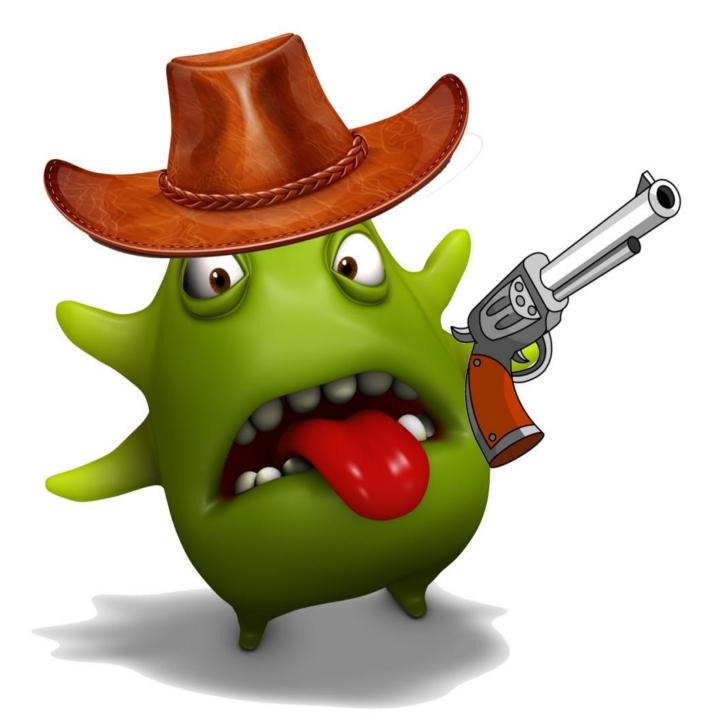
However just when your guard is down.... BAM!!!! It'll get you by causing no end of infections: skin abscesses, impetigo, sinusitis, cellulitis, food poisoning, including some real serious stuff like osteomyelitis, pneumonia, blood infections and post surgical wound infections.

E. Coli Keep this critter fenced in!



Calls itself a heat seeker and can't have any sense of smell because it loves to set up camp in people's bowels! Don't let it travel anywhere else in your body though cuz it will start an infection just as sure as the sky is blue. One family line in this clan can cause terrible gastrointestinal (tummy and intestines) illness including bloody diarrhea and can even lead to kidney failure !!

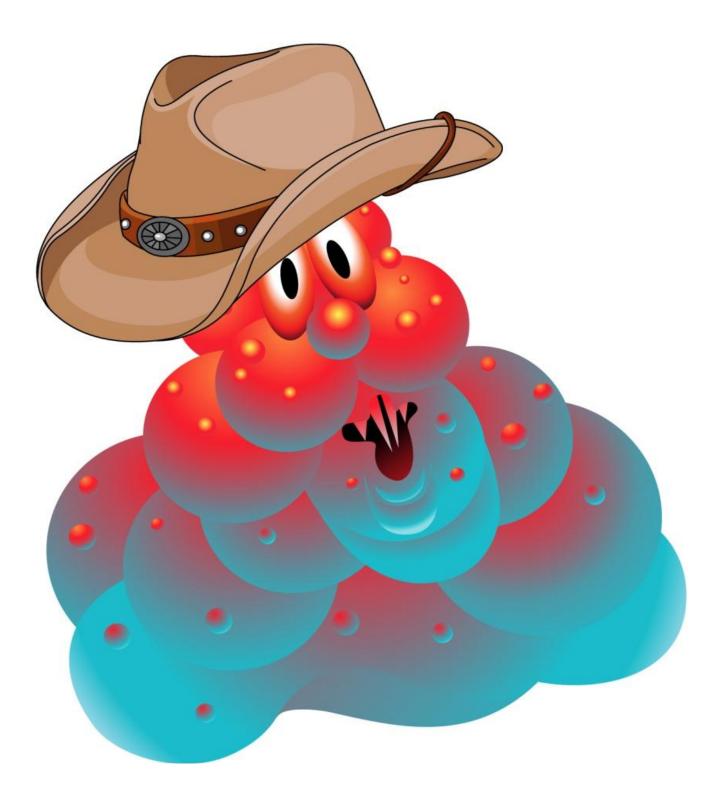
Influenza (The flu)



Stamp this out with a vaccine!

This virus family is quite the dynasty of ever changing chromosomes. You never know what they are going to look like from year to year! Don't be fooled though, whatever name they go by, they all cause terrible muscle pains, fatigue, cough, fever, headache, sore throat. If you're a little'un or an old'un you could get so sick that you have to go to hospital and who likes to be there? That's where all the sick people are! Head these guys off at the pass by getting a vaccination!

Norovirus



If this gang of meanies manages to rope you in you're going to spend the next 24-48 hrs sprinting to the bathroom and sometimes you won't know which end to point down first! Good thing folks usually perk up fast afterwards, 'cepting if you're a young 'un or an old 'un cause them folks can get mighty dehydrated

Clostridium Difficile(C.diff)



Don't let 'em in the front door!!!

This gang will over run your "innerds" if you let them in and have taken an antibiotic. Once they have set up their own camp they make this toxin that gives you terrible belly cramping and diarrhea. Old'uns are at real risk of blowin a dog gone hole in their bowel and ending up in intensive care or even worse gulp if ya know what I mean.

Neisseria Meningitidis



This vile, nasty critter can cause a sickness so severe that you could be booking a meeting with the undertaker in the very same day! Folks barely even knows what hit 'em ! They gets a high fever, flat on their backs, sometimes a real stiff neck, an sometimes a purpleyred rash. Ya need to get yourself to the doc real quick! If'n they get the right antibiotics into you quick like, then ya stands a chance. Otherwise say howdy to St. Peter for me. Kidlets and teenagers can get a vaccination to avoid getting this.

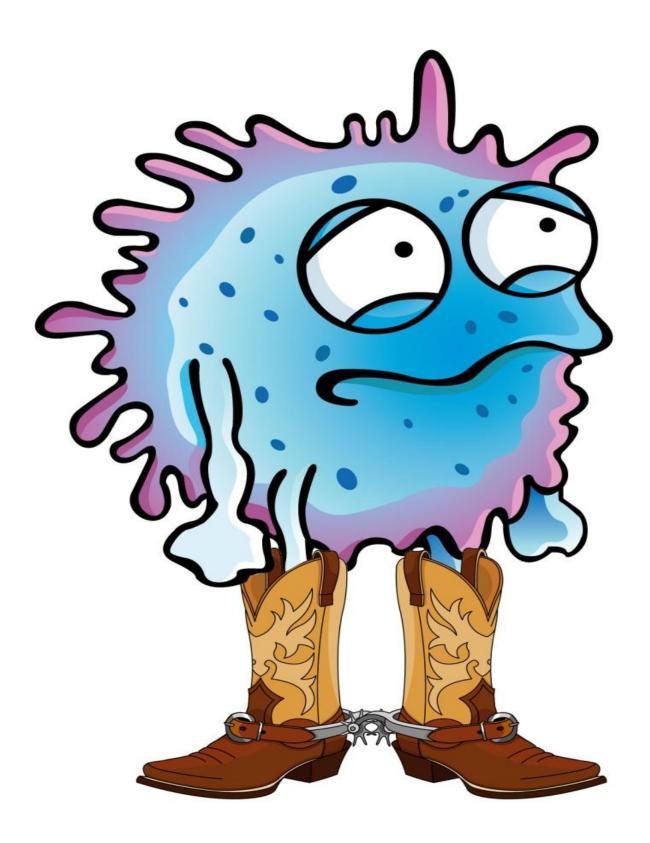
Haemophilus Influenzae



Stomp on this with a vaccination !

Years ago, when we wasn't so smart, we used to think this varmit caused the "flu". That's why it got that name (influenzae). But this is really one nasty bacteria that can get you sick in all kinds of ways: your bloodstream, your lungs, your bones, your joints heck..... even your doggone skin! Young'ens can get a vaccination to help 'em doge this critter.

Streptococcus Pneumoniae (Pneumococcus)



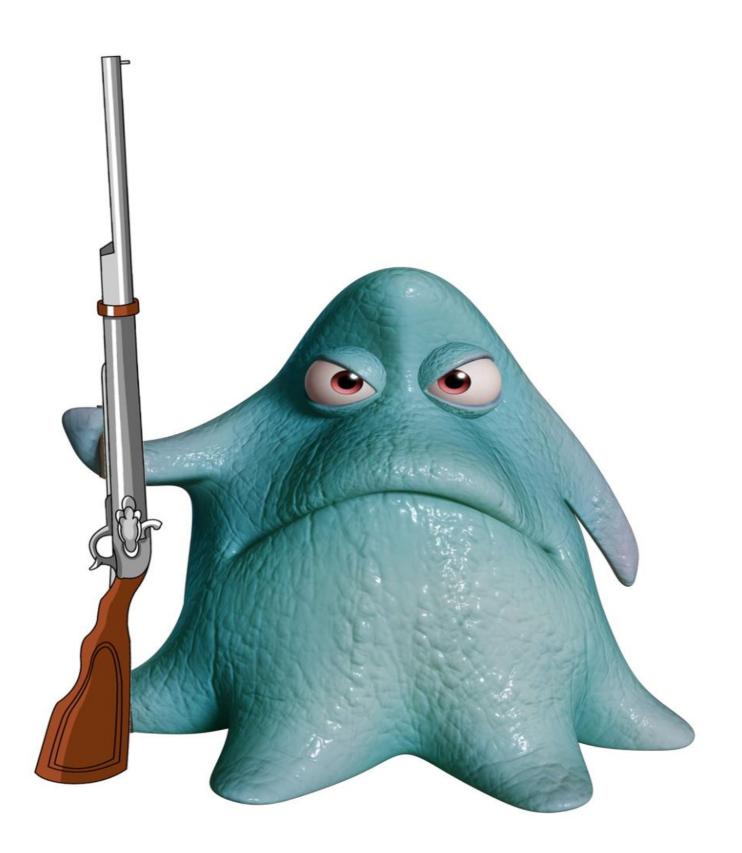
This meany most often makes you get pneumonia or ear infections or even meningitis, especially in the real young'uns or very old'uns. Now a days the gramas and grampas can get a vaccination for this. They call it the "pneumococcal vaccination."

Mycobacterium Tuberculosis



These crazy, nasty old coots have high tailed it all over the world and have been getting away with it for centuries !!! They need to get breathed right down in to the tiny parts of your lungs to start an infection. The sickness most folks get just creeps right up on them and all of a sudden they notice heck, ... they are losing weight, sweating like crazy when ther trying to sleep and have a right nuisance of a cough that goes on and on and on. Most time this sickness can be cured but you need to take a bunch of antibiotics for a long time.

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)



Ladies and Gents! Get Vaccinated !!

This family has more than 30 creepy cousins! They can all invade your "nether-parts" and cause ugly warts to grow. Some of 'em even cause cancer in those parts of your body! Do ya know that this infection is now the number 1 sexually transmitted infection in the USA? A feller can even carry this for years without knowin it and give it to someone else. There are ways of avoidin' these creeps though: you can use condoms, or stick with 1 partner, and the best way to avoid this ugly critter is to get vaccinated!

Listeria Monocytogenes



This varmint hides out most anywhere! Can be found in some foods, soil, plants and other places in nature. Folks can get sick from eating food that is contaminated and even can transfer Listeria from one food to another if ya don't handle it properly and keep your hands clean. Some folks are 'specially prone to getting real sick: pregnant womenfolk, old 'uns and thems with weak defenses. They should stay away from deli meats, raw or unpasteurized dairy products including soft and semisoft cheese such as Brie, Camembert and blue-veined cheese, raw or undercooked meat, poultry and fish. An ounce of prevention will be worth a whole ton a cure!