

## **MICROBES:** FRIENDS AND FOES

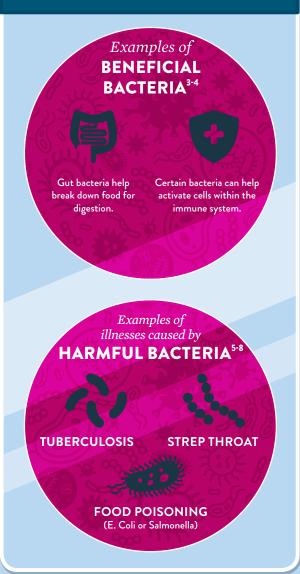
Microorganisms, also called **microbes**, are tiny forms of life that surround us — invisible to the naked eye. They are found in water, in the soil, in the air, and even in the human body.<sup>1</sup>

Some microbes are important for our health while some make us sick. The most common are bacteria, viruses and fungi.1

Abbott's scientists who study infectious diseases — sometimes called "virus hunters" work to make sense of which microbes are friends and foes.

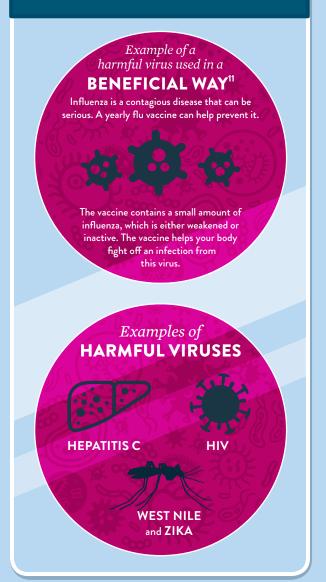
## **BACTERIA<sup>2</sup>**

You encounter both "good" and "bad" bacteria daily. Some bacteria are used in the preparation of foods, chemicals, and antibiotics. Studies of the relationships between different groups of bacteria continue to yield new insights.



## VIRUSES9-10

These microorganisms are much better known for causing disease but also play a role in vaccine development. Scientists are working to understand how viruses might be beneficial to health.



## HOW DO WE DETERMINE IF A VIRUS IS HARMFUL?

Virus hunters take a number of steps to figure out if a virus is causing harm.



where a disease is prevalent



Interview sick people to figure out how they might have become ill and take samples



Conduct research on microbes in samples



Develop tests that can detect microbes in infected individuals

These are just some of the ways that virus hunters are helping you stay healthy.

• For more information: Visit abbott.com/virushunters. Like this graphic? Share on social media using #VirusHunters.

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