

# GPP 2 Activities

## Quality Assurance



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



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**Biosecurity**  
**Transmitting Diseases Activity**  
**GPP #2**

**Learning Objectives:**

To visually demonstrate the spread of infectious diseases between animals or people and animals.  
Youth will discuss biosecurity practices to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

**Background:**

Diseases spread in many ways. Most are spread from animal to animal contact, but humans can also transfer diseases from group to another, and so can other animals (birds, rodents, pets, etc.). It is important to understand how quickly and easily diseases can be spread in order to understand the importance of biosecurity for project animals. **Biosecurity** is a combination of management practices designed to prevent the introduction and spread of disease in herds/flocks. A biosecurity plan includes controlling **external** spread (from other farms to yours) and **internal** spread (from one group of animals on your farm to another group on your farm).

Diseases can also be transmitted from animals to humans and humans to animals. These are called **zoonotic** diseases and would include: swine influenza, avian influenza, ringworm, rabies, West Nile virus, club lamb fungus, and sore mouth.

**Preparation:**

Purchase small cups (enough for 1 per person). Purchase small candies (M&M's or Skittles & a different candy such as jelly beans or gummi bears). Place 5-10 small candies (M&M's or Skittles) in most of the cups. Place the different candy (jelly beans or gummi bears) in 2-5 other cups (or 5-10% of the group).

**Activity:**

1. Distribute the small cups of candy to each participant, make sure some participants (5-10% of group) receive a cup with the different kind of candy. Tell them not to eat their candy yet.
2. Instruct the participants to walk around and introduce themselves to each other and exchange a piece of candy with them. Keep reminding them not to eat the candy yet.
3. Let them mingle for about 5-6 minutes to meet others and exchange candies, bring them back together for discussion.
4. Ask who started out with jelly beans or gummie bears? Tell them that that represents a **contagious** or **infectious** disease like ringworm, swine flu, club lamb fungus, or sore mouth.

5. Then ask who ended up with jelly beans or gummi bears in their cup? They are now exposed to the contagious or infectious disease and will likely bring it home to their own farm.
6. Now let them eat their candies if they want.

### **Discussion Questions for the Whole Group:**

1. What does “contagious” or “infectious” mean? **Capable of transmitting a disease. Spreading or tending to spread from one to another**
2. What did you learn from this activity? **Answers will vary**
3. How can diseases be brought into a herd or flock? **Bringing in new animals, visiting other farms/flocks, letting other people use scales or equipment, other animals (rodents, birds, pets), etc.**
4. How can you prevent the spread of disease? **Vaccinate animals, quarantine/isolate new animals brought in, isolate sick animals, wear disposable boots when visiting other farms, limit the number of visitors to your farm, disinfect scales and equipment after use by others, disinfect truck/trailers after each use, have clothes and boots/shoes that are only worn to the barn.**

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