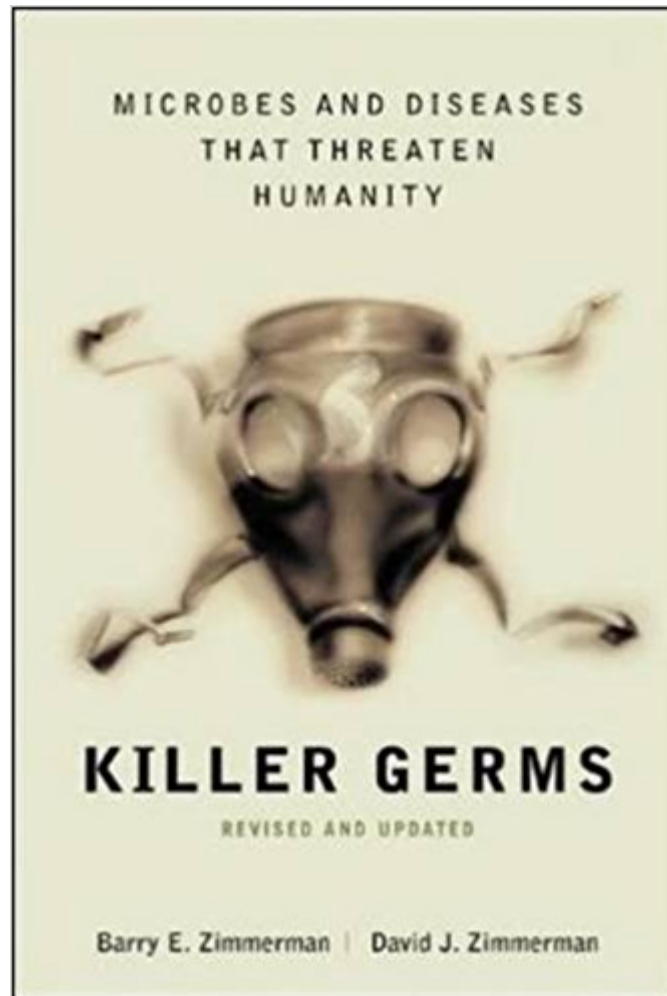




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# Killer Germs



## Synopsis

Everything readers ever wanted to know about deadly viruses, killer parasites, flesh-eating microbes, and other lifethreatening beasts but were afraid to ask What disease, known as "the White Death" has killed 2 billion people, and counting? What fatal disease lurks undetected in air conditioners and shower heads, waiting to become airborne? How lethal is the Ebola virus, and will there ever be a cure for it? How do you catch flesh-eating bacteria? Killer Germs takes readers on a fascinating (sometimes horrifying) journey into the amazing world of viruses, bacteria, protozoa, fungi, and worms and explores the roles they have played in shaping the course of human history. From biblical plagues, to the AIDS crisis, to supergerms of the future, this updated and revised edition of the original covers the whole gamut of diseases that have threatened humanity since its origins. It also includes a new chapter on the history of bioterrorism and the deplorable role it has played and is likely to play in the phenomenal diversity of diseases.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Discover the unseen assassins that plague humanity Until recently, most of us went about our daily lives with a false sense of public health security. Epidemics were a thing of the past, the AIDS crisis had diminished, and an annual vaccination kept the flu at bay. Then, in late 2001, all of those illusions of public health safety were suddenly shattered. A litany of terrifying images and events became all too familiar, from federal agents surreally swathed in biohazard suits to the daily evacuation of major government buildings for anthrax decontamination. The lethal power of

microscopic organisms--no longer confined to the lab---permeated our collective psyches, forcing us to confront the serious threat posed by killer germs. This updated edition of Barry and David Zimmerman's classic on the subject offers a riveting retrospective of the havoc-wreaking microbes of the past as well as an engrossing exploration of emerging threats, including a new chapter on bioterrorism. In these pages, you'll discover: What makes smallpox the most potentially devastating of all bioweapons, and how prepared we are to fight it Why tuberculosis--already responsible for 2 billion deaths--is on the rise in the United States, Canada, and Europe How antibiotic overload might one day turn a simple paper cut or skinned knee into a source of fatal infection Why virologists fear that an easily transmissible, highly virulent superflu--strong enough to rival the strain that killed millions in 1918--is imminent From the bygone bubonic plague to the modern nightmare of Ebola, Killer Germs offers a fascinating examination of the horrors humanity has faced and the actions required to provide hope for the future.

Barry Zimmerman and David Zimmerman are both science teachers and authors of *Why Nothing Can Travel Faster Than Light . . . and Other Explorations in Nature's Curiosity Shop*.

If you are fascinated by medical facts and "it could happen" fiction, you'll love this! I found it to be scary in the delicious shivery way a thriller or horror movie is, but the scariest part is that it is ALL true. It's divided by type - bacteria, virus, parasites, fungus. Some of the things you will learn will have you staring at the book in fascinated horror. I really recommend it to medical book junkies like me :) I will just say one thing more - I will never, never, ever, ever eat raw sushi again. That section makes getting a tapeworm from sushi, as everyone talks about, seem like a mere inconvenience ~shudder~

This was not just one of the best books I have read, but such a good book on the subject. The authors made the difficult subject of diseases and biology readily accessible, putting the topics in layman's terms. I have enough of a background in biological sciences to understand the subject, but this was not just a dense book, it was well-written. I like the historical background of famous scientists, the connections among various diseases, vaccines, treatments, etc. This was just a great book overall that I would recommend for anyone!

I found this to be a very informative and interesting book about all kinds of germs. My only complaint is that it has not been updated since 2003, which is a pity based upon all of the developments in this

field since then.

Excellent information! I thought I knew about the subject, but I understood much more after reading this book. Given the interconnected global world we live in we all need to be aware of how viruses work and why it's important to be cautious when using antibiotics.

This book is a wonderful and at times outright scary look at all those nasty germs and organisms that can kill us. The author has set the chapters out in a logical and easy to read manner. Having a very poor understanding on this subject matter I found the information easy to take in. A great mix of history, scientific facts and scenarios made this book a joy to read. This is kind of book that I know I will bore the hell out of my friends with the new knowledge it has gave me. The world of disease now lays open to me and I plan to read much more about it.

This was a great book! I particularly enjoyed the historical perspectives regarding the foundations of microbiology. The chapters are organized in a very coherent and logical manner. Whether a layman or familiar with the subject, you will enjoy reading this book tremendously. I read this book on my kindle and found myself making continuous highlights on numerous quotes and analogies, which I found remarkably interesting. I would recommend this book to anyone from high school and up. Oh and this is the first time I am actually writing a review so imagine how impressed I was.

Very good writing style. The Zimmerman Brothers (I'm Assuming) know how to write in such a way that you are never bored even in chapters that may not be of special interest to you. I bought a slew of germ books a few months ago and after starting and stopping a couple I picked this one up and cant put it down. Thank you Zimmerman!

This was very interesting, learning things I wouldn't know to ask about before. Understanding is always helpful.

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