

## Analysis of the Movie “Contagion” Homework Assignment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Watch movie “Contagion” and answer the following questions. The movie is fast-paced and complex, so students should print out and read over this assignment before watching movie. Then take notes to answer the following questions, while watching the film.*

1. What country did the disease originate in? What two types of animals did this virus develop in before it made the jump to infecting humans? Who was the first person infected?
2. What type of infectious agent was this, and what was its specific name?
3. What are fomites, and which character in the movie explained how fomites can be involved in the transmission of infectious disease?
4. What is the difference between a **sign** and a **symptom** of disease? What are the signs and symptoms of the disease featured in this movie?
5. How long did it take a person infected with this disease to develop symptoms? About how long from time of exposure to death? What was the average number of people that an infected person would directly transmit the infection to?
6. Why was the blogger Alan Krumwiede (played by Jude Law) considered such a threat? At best he believed he was helping the public, at worst, he was just trying to make money by exploiting the situation. Regardless, his actions were making things worse. Explain how.

7. Dr. Leonora Orantes (Marion Cotillard), a World Health Organization epidemiologist, was kidnapped. Why? Did the kidnappers get what they wanted? Explain.
  
8. Dr. Erin Mears, played by Kate Winslet, was an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer from the CDC. She performed a similar role in investigating the disease as did Dr. Orantes. Their jobs and their investigations in this movie can be compared to the work of what historical figure covered in the [History of Microbiology](#) lecture?
  
9. Dr. Ellis Cheever (played by Lawrence Fishburne) was a medical official with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. What did he get in trouble for doing, and why?
  
10. Before a vaccine can be developed, researchers need to find a way to grow the infectious agent in a laboratory. The problem with this microbe was that it quickly killed any in vitro cells the researchers infected. What type of cell do researchers eventually find that allows them to successfully grow the microbe in the lab?
  
11. Dr. Ally Hextall (played by Jennifer Ehle) was the main character working on development of a vaccine. She eventually injected herself with one of the experimental vaccines she developed. She then went to visit her father who was sick. In doing so, she purposely exposed herself to the illness. While visiting her father, they discussed the parallels between what she had just done and the work of Dr. Barry Marshall. Who was Barry Marshall, and in what way was his scientific work similar to that of the fictional Dr. Hextall?
  
12. Alan Krumwiede (Jude Law) ingested Forsythia when he began feeling ill, and he ultimately did not get the disease. Why can one not conclude that the Forsythia prevented Alan from developing the disease? Please give a detailed response. There are several reasons why we cannot conclude that Forsythia cured him.