

GIANT MICROBES PLUSH TOYS

These adorable stuffed versions of nasty disease-causing microbes aren't just for medical professionals. The surprisingly popular toy line has already moved 100,000 units. Sick with the flu? Snuggle up with a fluffy green *Orthomyxovirus*. Or if you don't like someone but can't come out and say it directly, give them a cuddly Black Death or Ebola. Each 5- to 7-inch doll comes with a picture and fact sheet about the real-life microbe. The GM gang added hepatitis and HIV this year in response to overwhelming demand from doctors, and they say we can expect a few new STDs in 2005. Catch 'em all! [**Giant Microbes:** \$6 to \$7 each, www.giantmicrobes.com]



HCV
Hepacivirus
(Hepatitis C)



Athlete's Foot
Trichophyton mentagrophytes



Bad Breath
Porphyromonas gingivalis



Bed Bug
Cimex lectularius



Beer Yeast
Saccharomyces cerevisiae



Black Death
Yersinia pestis



Bookworm
Anobium punctatum



The Common Cold
Rhinovirus



Cough
Bordetella pertussis



Dust Mite
Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus



Ear Ache
Streptococcus pneumonia



Ebola
Ebolavirus



Flesh Eating Bacteria
Streptococcus pyogenes



HIV
Lentivirus
(human immunodeficiency virus)



Kissing Disease
Lymphocryptovirus
(Epstein-Barr)



Martian Life
ALH 84001



The Flu
Orthomyxovirus



Sleeping Sickness
Trypanosoma brucei



Sore Throat
Streptococcus



Stomach Ache
Shigella



Ulcer
Helicobacter pylori



PALISADES STUFFED ALIENS

They latch onto your face, worm their way into your body, and then tear your heart in two. H. R. Giger's aliens are terrifying on the big screen, but these extraterrestrial plush toys are at your mercy. The Facehugger is a fully poseable, 30-inch early-stage alien, with bendable legs that attach securely to any human head, and a long tail that wraps around an adult neck. (One gripe: Where's the tracheal tube that slides down the host's throat and implants the alien larva?) The Chestburster is a 48-inch-long replica of a second-stage alien, which ideally should be presented as a surprise gift a few days after the Facehugger – preferably at the dinner table. [**Facehugger and Chestburster (ages 3 and up):** \$25 each, www.palisadestoy.com]