Poster Talking Points

Contaminated Water Contains Microbes That Make Us Sick

Key Message:

• Contaminated water can make you sick.
• We know that dirty water is not good to drink; however, clear water is often not safe to drink unless it’s been cleaned.
• Tiny living things, called microbes, which are too small to see with your eyes, can be living in the water.
• Microbes can be worms, parasites, or bacteria (refer to “cartoon” characters of microbes on poster).
• If we drink contaminated water, we may become ill with diarrhea, stomach pains, fever, and vomiting. (Talk about any water-related diseases that are common in the area.)
• When we get sick, we may have to visit a doctor or even stay in the hospital. Medications to cure these illnesses can cost a lot of money.
• Sickness can cause us to miss school or work.
• Some illnesses are so bad that we may die.

Check for understanding:

• What can you see in the water?
• What is something that you can’t see in the water, but might still be there (microbes)?
• What happens if you drink water that has microbes in it?
• What are illnesses that you can get when we drink contaminated water?
• What are some consequences of being sick?

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