Sneezes Provoke Fears Beyond Illness

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Scientific American:

With H1N1 on the rise and flu shots hard to find, few things are as terrifying as [sneeze sound]. But now a report in the journal Psychological Science suggests that coughing and sneezing can spread more than viruses. They also spread fear, of germs and more.

So you’re on line for a movie when the guy behind you lets loose a big, juicy [sneeze sound]. Maybe you hold your breath, or maybe you decide to skip the flick and go home to scrub your hands like you’re Lady Macbeth. Well, psychologists got to wondering whether that well-grounded caution could snowball into an overarching skittishness about disease and other things.

Read more: Scientific American