This study developed a Japanese version of the Perceived Vulnerability to Disease (PVD) scale. Analysis of the data from Japanese university students (N = 435) replicated the two-factor structure of the original scale: one factor that assesses beliefs about one’s own susceptibility to infectious diseases (Perceived Infectability) and the other factor that assesses emotional discomfort in contexts that connote an especially high potential for pathogen transmission (Germ Aversion). Tests of reliability and validity for each subscale indicated overall promising results. It would appear that the results reflect at least in part an evolutionary adaptive psychological mechanism for the ancestral environment.

Keywords: perceived vulnerability to disease (PVD), infectious disease, perceived infectability, germ aversion, evolutionary adaptation.