Case 13.1.
While working at the Flagstaff Hospital, a two-year-old male was brought to the Emergency Room in November because of vomiting and diarrhea. He was admitted to the hospital because of fever (39.5°C) and dehydration. He had a slight tachycardia (124 beats/min) and respirations of 34/min.

Question 1. What are the three major kinds of infectious agents (provide one example of each) that might be the cause?

Question 2. What are the two major kinds of diarrhea that it is important to differentiate? Explain.

Question 3. Initial tests showed that his urine had a high specific gravity and that there were no fecal leukocytes. The high urine specific gravity is consistent with the child's dehydration. What is the significance of the fact that no fecal leukocytes were found? Explain.

Question 4. What are some causes of non-inflammatory or watery diarrhea?

Question 5. Besides rotaviruses, what are some other viral causes of watery diarrhea? Explain.

Case 13.2.
While working at the Flagstaff Hospital, a two-year-old male was brought to the Emergency Room in November because of vomiting and diarrhea. He was admitted to the hospital because of fever (39.5°C) and dehydration. He had a slight tachycardia (124 beats/min) and respirations of 34/min.

Question 1. What are the three major kinds of infectious agents (provide one example of each) that might be the cause?

Question 2. What would be your approach in treating this child? Explain.

Question 3. Routine stool cultures were done and were all negative. This latter result indicates what?

Question 4. How would you diagnose a case of viral diarrhea?

Question 5. What is the mechanism by which rotaviruses cause diarrhea? Explain.

Question 6. The child recovered uneventfully and could return to his daycare center the next week. His mother found, when she took him back, that many of the other children had a similar illness. What is the best way to prevent this disease? Explain.