



D-BUG FUN FACTS!

TRANSMISSION & INFECTION

INFECTION occurs when a virus enters our body and begins to multiply

Viruses can enter our bodies through our **mucous membranes** (e.g., mouth, nose & eyes), or through wounds or bites that breach our **skin** barrier.

They can spread from person to person through several routes or **MODES OF TRANSMISSION**

AIRBORNE



Virus particles can leave our bodies in droplets of bodily fluid when we talk, sneeze & cough. Small droplets can float in the air for a long time; larger droplets can travel a short distance and be breathed in by someone nearby, or they might land on a surface and wait...

INDIRECT CONTACT



Surfaces can be contaminated if they have infectious droplets land on them. When someone else touches the surface, then rubs their face, the virus can spread to the new person.

DIRECT CONTACT

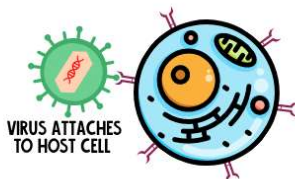


Viruses can spread via direct contact with the skin or bodily fluids of an infectious person.

To multiply, a virus needs to break into a host cell and hijack the cell's metabolic machinery to make copies of itself. The copies then escape the cell and go on to find more cells to infect. It's not that easy for viruses to enter our cells and, lucky for us, most viruses we encounter bounce off our cells & leave our bodies as harmless visitors.

BUT, more than 200 viruses can cause disease in humans, and all of them break into, and take over, our cells.

To enter a cell, proteins on the surface of the virus match & attach to proteins on the outside of the cell, just like a **key in a lock**. The virus then releases its DNA or RNA inside the cell. Our cell reads these genetic instructions and begins copying & crafting the virus. Thousands of copies are made, before they burst out in search of more cells to infect.



VIRUS PARTS ARE COPIED & CRAFTED

