



White Pine County Office of Public Health



EDUCATION

In times like these, parents and educators may entertain a discussion on what viruses are and how these infective agents affected our lives in such profound way. Discussions may be started in a lighthearted manner as the topic itself carries a heavy tone. One way to start is by entertaining a comparison with a fictional scenario.

How is a Coronavirus Like a Zombie?

Viruses are not true living organisms. Neither are zombies, also known as the living dead.
(Opens up a discussion on the definition of a virus, and why there is a debate on whether or not it is a life form.)

Viruses cannot replicate on their own but can do so inside cells and can also fundamentally affect the behavior of their hosts. Zombies don't get married, but if you get bitten by a zombie, you become a zombie.
(Opens up a discussion on how it replicates and affects the host.)

Viruses change the genetic code of the host. Zombies change you into a zombie.
(Opens up a discussion on components of a virus.)

Coronaviruses affect everyone. They don't discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Zombies also comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964; they'll bite anyone.
(Opens up a discussion on milestones in ending discrimination.)

Coronaviruses cannot multiply with proper social distancing. You cannot become a zombie if your social distance yourself, but you do have to run.
(Opens up a discussion on current guidelines for prevention.)

An infected person with coronavirus has less chance of transmitting the disease with a mask on. Zombies can't bite well with a mask on.
(Opens up a discussion on current guidelines for prevention.)



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The good news is that there are vaccines against some viruses.
The bad news is that there is no vaccine against zombies.
(Opens up a discussion on what vaccines are and how they eradicated diseases.)

For a fun school activity while everyone is home, visit
<https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/zombie/educate-detectives.htm>



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Zombie Preparedness for Educators: Disease Detectives

Disease Detectives: Zombie Outbreak

[Printable PDF](#) [PDF - 304 KB]

Goal:

Figure out how the zombie virus was originally transmitted and what hypothesis might explain how it happened.

Status Report: (read to students)

An increasing number of citizens are disappearing, especially at night. These victims are reappearing as perpetrators. They are slow-moving, very strong. They are impervious to pain/injury and appear to be unaware of their surroundings. We've discovered that after the victims disappear, they reappear without human blood. Without bloodflow, these perpetrators freeze quickly. We believe this is why