



How a Virus *Infects* the Body

Enters

The virus enters the body through the nose, mouth, eyes or breaks in the skin.

Infects

Once inside the body, a virus infects a host cell by injecting its genetic material.

Directs

The virus will hijack the cell in order to make many copies of itself and to hide from the immune system.

Spreads

The host cell dies as the virus multiplies and moves into more cells. This is when the body gets sick.

Stops

The immune system can protect the body from low-level attacks and adapt to viral infections, so that they won't cause disease again or are less severe. Antiviral medications also can help protect against viral diseases.