

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

LEVEL: _____

DATE: _____

WORKSHEET 2
MEDICATION



When someone who has flu sneezes nearby, you take tiny droplets of their saliva into your lungs. The droplets contain viruses that are looking for a new home. They get into your lungs and then into your blood, and can quickly take over your whole body, using it as a factory in which they can reproduce. At any time, a deadly bacterium or a virus can become very successful and spread across the world, killing millions of human beings. When this happens, it is called a 'pandemic'.

There was a pandemic in 1918. An influenza virus called H1N1, or Spanish flu, killed between 50 and 100 million people. More people died from H1N1 than were killed in the First World War.

A letter from a doctor in a military camp in 1918 describes the situation;

"...It is only a few hours until death comes. It is horrible. We have been averaging about 100 deaths per day. We have lost many nurses and doctors. Special trains carry away the dead. For several days there were no coffins and the bodies piled up..."

Since 1918 the H1N1 virus has mutated. Now there is a mutation called H5N1. When this mutation first appeared in China in 1996, there was a desperate search for a medicine to deal with it. The pharmaceutical company Roche came up with a drug called Tamiflu.

Tamiflu does not kill H5N1, but stops it making copies of itself if given early enough, vaccinations of Tamiflu could perhaps save many lives. However, the virus will continue to mutate and might become resistant to Tamiflu. The next mutation may already be with us by the time you're reading this!

Activity 1: Vocabulary

Read each sentence carefully and choose the best synonym or definition for the bolded word.

1. **Reproduce:**

"The virus can quickly take over your whole body, using it as a factory in which they can **reproduce**."

- a) Die
- b) Multiply
- c) Disappear
- d) Relax

Answer: _____

2. **Deadly:**

"At any time, a **deadly** bacterium or a virus can become very successful and spread across the world."

- a) Dangerous
- b) Tiny
- c) Safe
- d) Harmless

Answer: _____

3. **Pandemic:**

"When this happens, it is called a **pandemic**. There was a pandemic in 1918."

- a) Epidemic
- b) Cure
- c) Remedy
- d) Illness that affects only one region

Answer: _____

4. **Averaging:**
 "We have been **averaging** about 100 deaths per day."
 a) Estimating
 b) Transporting
 c) Collecting
 d) Reaching a mean value
Answer: _____
-
5. **Mutation:**
 "Now there is a **mutation** called H5N1. When this mutation first appeared in China in 1996, there was a desperate search for a medicine to deal with it."
 a) Transformation
 b) Disguise
 c) Elimination
 d) Illness
Answer: _____
-
6. **Desperate:**
 "When this mutation first appeared in China in 1996, there was a **desperate** search for a medicine to deal with it."
 a) Calm
 b) Hopeful
 c) Urgent
 d) Slow
Answer: _____
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7. **Resistant:**
 "The virus will continue to mutate and might become **resistant** to Tamiflu."
 a) Unaffected
 b) Vulnerable
 c) Receptive
 d) Permissive
Answer: _____
-
8. **Horrible:**
 "It is only a few hours until death comes. It is **horrible**."
 a) Wonderful
 b) Awful
 c) Delightful
 d) Calm
Answer: _____

Activity 2: Sentence completion

Complete the sentences below using the correct vocabulary word from the reading. The following word bank can help you as well.

- | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|
| ✓ bacterium | ✓ inoculation | ✓ mutation | ✓ resistant | ✓ Tamiflu |
| ✓ influenza | ✓ mutated | ✓ pharmaceutical | ✓ saliva | ✓ virus |

- 1) The _____ virus caused a deadly pandemic in 1918.
- 2) When someone sneezes, tiny droplets of _____ can carry the virus into the air.
- 3) After the H1N1 virus _____, it led to new challenges in treating the disease.
- 4) Tamiflu is a _____ drug that was developed to combat certain types of flu.
- 5) The spread of a _____ can result in a pandemic if not controlled.
- 6) Many people were saved by receiving an _____ during the flu outbreak.
- 7) The _____ of the virus made it harder to treat with existing medicines.
- 8) Scientists worry that the virus might become _____ to Tamiflu in the future.
- 9) A _____ can be treated with antibiotics, unlike a virus.
- 10) The pharmaceutical company Roche developed _____ to help fight against the flu.

Activity 3: Comprehension

Read each question carefully and choose the best answer based on the passage provided.

1. How does the flu virus enter the body according to the passage?
 - a) Through contaminated water
 - b) By touching infected surfaces
 - c) Through tiny droplets of saliva when someone sneezes nearby
 - d) By eating contaminated food**Answer:** _____

2. What is a 'pandemic' as described in the passage?
 - a) A minor local outbreak of a disease
 - b) An illness caused by bacteria
 - c) A virus that only affects animals
 - d) A disease that spreads worldwide and kills many people**Answer:** _____

3. What made the 1918 pandemic particularly deadly?
 - a) There were not enough trains to transport the sick.
 - b) The virus spread quickly and killed between 50 and 100 million people.
 - c) It was confined to military camps only.
 - d) The virus affected only children and elderly people.**Answer:** _____

4. What did the letter from the doctor in 1918 reveal about the situation in military camps?
 - a) They were running out of food supplies.
 - b) Many soldiers were evacuated by special trains.
 - c) Deaths were occurring rapidly, and there were no coffins available.
 - d) Nurses and doctors were brought in to help.**Answer:** _____

5. What is Tamiflu's role in fighting the H5N1 virus?
 - a) It kills the virus completely.
 - b) It prevents the virus from making copies of itself if given early.
 - c) It stops the virus from entering the bloodstream.
 - d) It works only after the virus has spread throughout the body.**Answer:** _____

6. Why is it difficult to completely eliminate viruses like H5N1?
 - a) Because they can hide inside human cells.
 - b) Because they are too small to detect.
 - c) Because they continue to mutate and may become resistant to medications.
 - d) Because there are not enough drugs available to treat them.**Answer:** _____

7. What does the passage suggest about future mutations of the virus?

- a) The next mutation might already exist at the time of reading.
- b) Scientists have found a permanent cure for future mutations.
- c) Future mutations will not be as dangerous as the original.
- d) Mutations occur only once every hundred years.

Answer: _____

8. Why was there a desperate search for a medicine in 1996?

- a) Because the virus had spread to multiple continents.
- b) Because the H5N1 mutation appeared and no medicine was available to treat it.
- c) Because all available medicines were too expensive.
- d) Because people stopped getting vaccinated.

Answer: _____