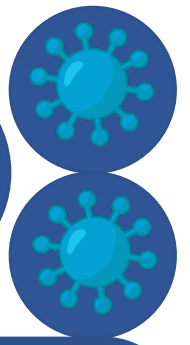
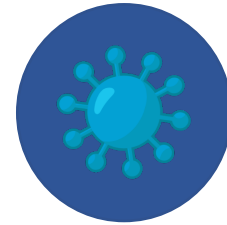


# Flu Whispers



## Overview

- The flu virus is like a chameleon – it changes itself so it can escape the immune defences we've built up against it each year.
- These changes to the flu virus happen because it makes mistakes each time it copies its genetic material.
- This activity will help you see how easy it is for mistakes to build up in information that is passed between individuals.

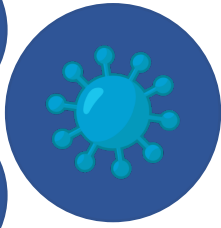
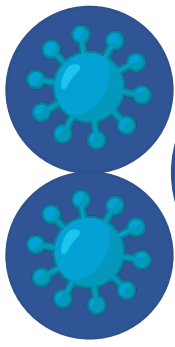
## The Game

*The aim of the game is to correctly relay the information from virus to the immune system without the message changing!*

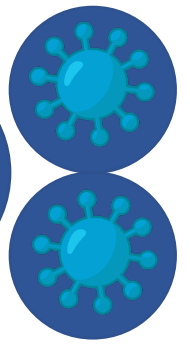
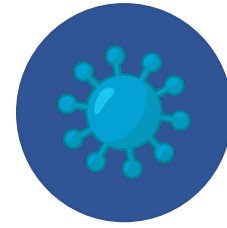
1. Ask the pupils to sit in a circle (5+ pupils).
2. Select one pupil to be the 'virus' and give them an appropriate phrase or sentence to pass on.
3. Ask them to whisper that phrase to the pupil sitting next to them. They can only say it once!
4. Then ask that next pupil to whisper what they thought the sentence was to the next pupil and continue around the circle.
5. Ask the pupil at the end of the circle to say out loud what they think the initial sentence was.

**Was the original sentence the same as the sentence that was said out loud at the end or had it mutated?**





# Flu Whispers



## List of materials required:

- 5 + pupils
- Teacher or adult to coordinate

## Length of activity

Each game can last between 3-5 minutes but can be played multiple times per session

## Examples of phrases or sentences

- *Viruses are harmful*
- *Flu viruses hide from our immune system by changing themselves*
- *Vaccines help our immune system fight the virus*
- *Vaccines contain part of a newly mutated virus that allows your immune cells to have a first look at the flu virus*

