

H1N1 Flu Virus

Introduction

Ask and answer the following questions with a partner.

1. Have you ever caught the flu? And how was it?
2. What do you know about the H1N1 flu virus? (anything is OK)

Vocabulary

strain	immune
pandemic	protein
flu	infect
disguise	thrive
hemisphere	decode
epidemic	mild

Listening 1

Watch the video and listen for the answers to these questions.

1. What is the researchers' specific interest?
2. Why can't the body fight the H1N1 flu virus?
3. How can the H1N1 thrive during summer?
4. What are the crazy things going around the internet about H1N1?
5. Why should you not do those crazy things (from Number 4)?

Listening 2

Dictation : Listen to the video and fill in the blanks below.

H1 and N1 are two _____ that sit on the surface of this new flu virus and help it _____ cells. The body fights the flu by blocking those proteins.

But a virus can change _____, often by reshuffling its genetic material with another flu virus after they've infected the same cell. If that happens, the virus can develop a new coat containing new proteins _____ it from the immune system. The body can't fight _____.

Discussion Activity 1

Doctor John La Pokka does not recommend us being infected by the H1N1 for the purpose of being immunized. However, if you had the chance to be infected by the H1N1 (still a milder virus), would you choose to do so? Why or why not?

Discussion Activity 2

Draw a picture of the H1N1 flu virus infecting cells in your body. Start drawing from two proteins (H1 and N1).