

# Viral Contagion



## Lesson 1- Context

### Overview

Being a member of a crack government team is not easy. The pressure is really on when the initial outbreak of the virus is found to be within an office building in South East London. The first lesson is set within the context of the initial outbreak. It is believed, at first, that this obviously virulent and dangerous virus can only be transmitted by touch. Because of the fact it is only transmitted by touch the infection rate is thought to be average - somewhere between 2 and 5.

### *How the lesson could work*

The resources are designed so that students will have to think about best case and worst case scenarios for the outbreak. There are some structured activities provided so that all levels of students can access the task. It is important that the groups work properly as a team to ensure that all of the work is completed and checked accordingly. For instance, in a group of six, two pupils may work out the infection rate of 2, two pupils may work out the infection rate of 5 and two pupils may work out the infection rate of 3.5. They can then swap and check each other's answers rather than everyone working out the same answers.

There is also a list of questions for the pupils to think about whilst they are preparing their presentation.

The prepared activities are available as online activities and on paper so that all schools can take advantage of this resource regardless of their ICT capabilities.

The key activities are listed below:

- Sequence and Series tables for various infection rates.
- Table to complete
- Graphs to plot and interpret
- Predictions to be made from the graphs

If students have access to a graph sketching package it would be suitable for them to try and plot the graphs of the infection rates on the same axis as this may help them see the vast differences between the various infection rates.

The students are then encouraged to think about the key questions that are shown on the resource sheet before putting their presentation together so there is a real focus on communicating the key concepts.