

VIRAL CONTAGION



Lesson 2 - Context

The situation is getting worse and fast. It has been confirmed that the virus can be transmitted via the air. This means the infection rate has gone up significantly from the previous predictions. It is now thought that the infection rate is somewhere between 7 and 12. This is a worrying development and means the virus could be affecting many more people than first thought.

The resources are designed so that the students will have to think about the best and worst case scenarios for the new revised outbreak. There are again some structured activities prepared. It is very important that the groups work properly as a team to ensure that they make the necessary progress within the allotted time. In a group of six, two pupils can work out the infection rate of 7, two pupils can work the infection rate of 12 and two pupils may work out an infection rate somewhere between 7 and 12. Pupils can then swap and check each other's answers.

There is also a list of questions for pupils to think about whilst they are preparing their presentation. The questions also relate to drawing comparisons from the first initial estimates to the current estimates.

For example:

- How much quicker do you expect the disease to spread now that the infection rate has increased?
- Do you think that the disease will have spread further geographically as a result of these revised infection rates?
- How many more people do you estimate are infected now?

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 graphs

The students are 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 ideas.