How a Virus Infects the Body

**Enters**
The virus enters the body through the nose, mouth, eyes or breaks in the skin.

**Infects**
Once inside the body, a virus infects a host cell by injecting its genetic material.

**Directs**
The virus will hijack the cell in order to make many copies of itself and to hide from the immune system.

**Spreads**
The host cell dies as the virus multiplies and moves into more cells. This is when the body gets sick.

**Stops**
The immune system can protect the body from low-level attacks and adapt to viral infections, so that they won’t cause disease again or are less severe. Antiviral medications also can help protect against viral diseases.