TRACK A VIRAL INFECTION MAP

Infection from a virus is called a viral infection. It can be transmitted from person to person. Do you know how many people can be infected from one person? Let's find out!

1 Mr. Donotlike Germs is infected with the Hairy Finger Virus! This virus is infectious for 10 days. Mr. Germs shook Mrs. Leeve Mealone's hand and now, 24 hours later, she is sick! If every infected person infects only one other person per day, and each newly sick person is infectious on the day after they become infected for 10 days, the viral infection path would look like this:

Day 0

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3 ?

2 Continue drawing the viral infection path to day 10. How many people are infected on day 7? How many days until 300 people are infected?

THINK MORE: Most people see more than just one person each day. Think about how many people you meet every day, and imagine if all of those people became infected with a virus. What would the numbers look like after five days, ten days, and twenty days in this scenario? What if only half of the people exposed to a virus get infected? How could this happen and how would this change the spread of infection? Why is it so hard to stop viruses from spreading? Is it easier to contain viruses in cities or in the countryside? Why?