

SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Use baking soda, vinegar, and water to model how germs can spread through a community. Each time two "people" interact, exchange liquids in the cups. (Make generous pours!)

1. "1" is feeling more tired than normal but has lunch plans with his friends, "8" and "14." They all meet for lunch. "1" orders an interesting smoothie and everyone takes a sip. They agree it's delicious!
2. "5" is the mom of "10." They play together all day. "10" is only two years old and puts his hands in his mouth a lot.
3. "1" is not feeling well after lunch and decides to go home for the day. "1" lives with "2". "1" asks if "2" wants to sleep in a different bed that night because he's sick but "2" declines.
4. "14" goes home after the lunch as well. She lives with "15"; they watch a TV show together.
5. "8" goes back to work after the lunch, she works closely with "9" on a project.
6. Two days later, also feeling tired, "2" goes to the grocery store and sneezes a few time in line near "6" and "11".
8. "15" is also starting to feel a little worn down but pushes past it and goes to the gym. "3" and "13," also at the gym, use the equipment immediately after "15."
9. "8" lives with "12". They spend lots of time together and share cups.
10. "5" and "7" are good friends and have a dinner together. They hug when greeting each other and leaving for the evening.
11. "4" works from home and doesn't go out much.

Now, add some baking soda to each cup. The cups/people that had bubbling reactions are sick. Those that didn't remain healthy. Record your data below.

These "people" are sick _____

These "people" remain healthy _____

Thinking Things Through

Can you trace how the illness spread through the community? Write about it or draw a picture!

This activity was used to model how illness can spread through person-to-person interaction. In what ways was this model true to real life? Which parts of this model did NOT replicate real life?
