

# Introduction to the Immune System, Influenza Epidemics and Pandemics

# What is the Purpose of the Immune System?

- ***Defense*** against pathogenic organisms - bacteria and viruses, some fungi & parasites
- ***Identification*** of self versus non-self cells - cancer

# Pathogens

These are ***antigens*** – each can be recognized by the immune system



Figure 1-5a  
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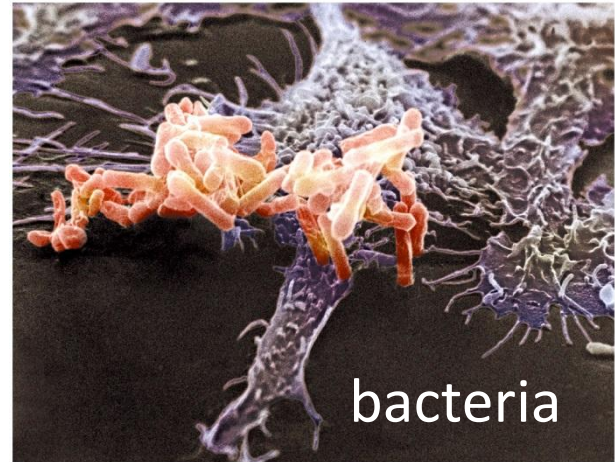


Figure 1-5b  
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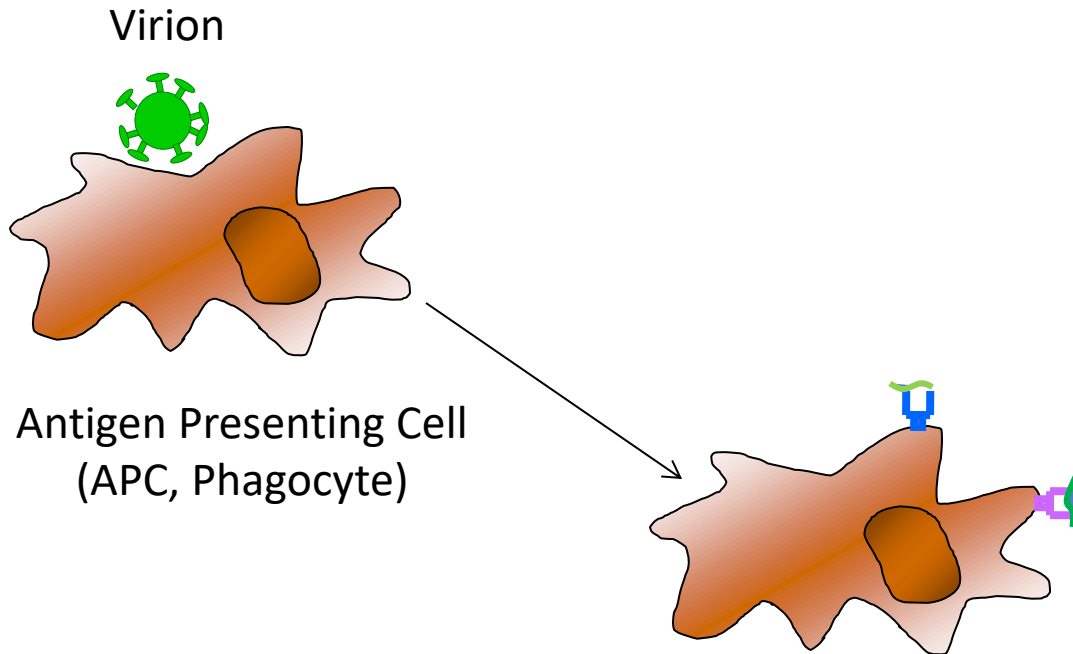


Figure 1-5c  
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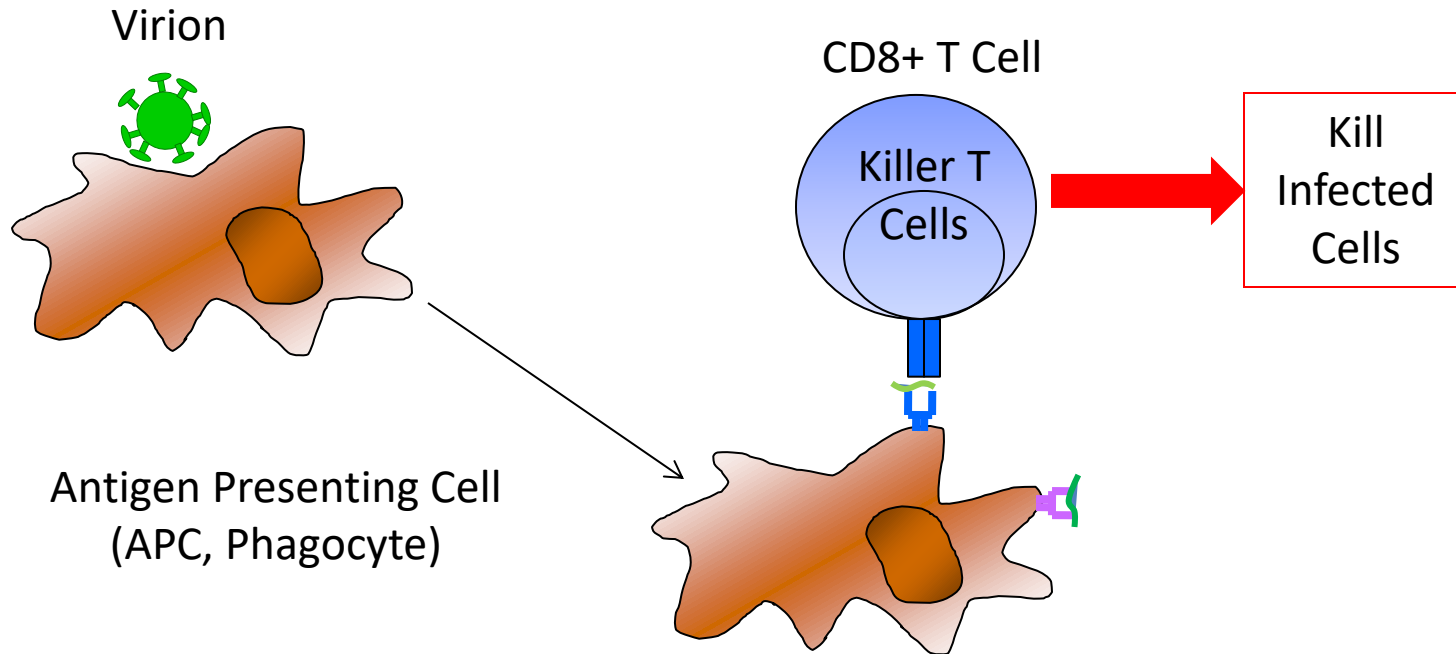


Figure 1-5d  
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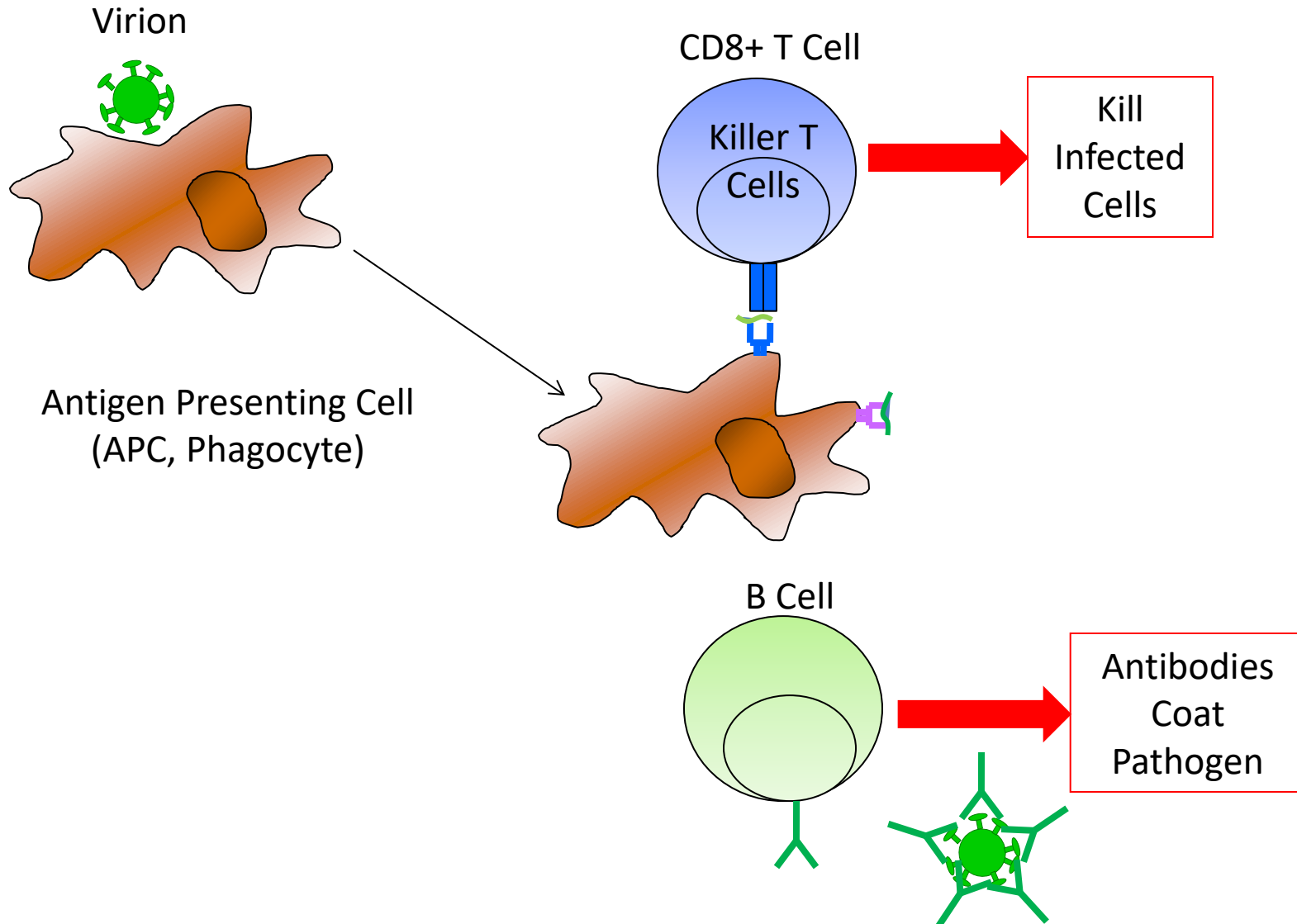
# Immune Responses to Infection



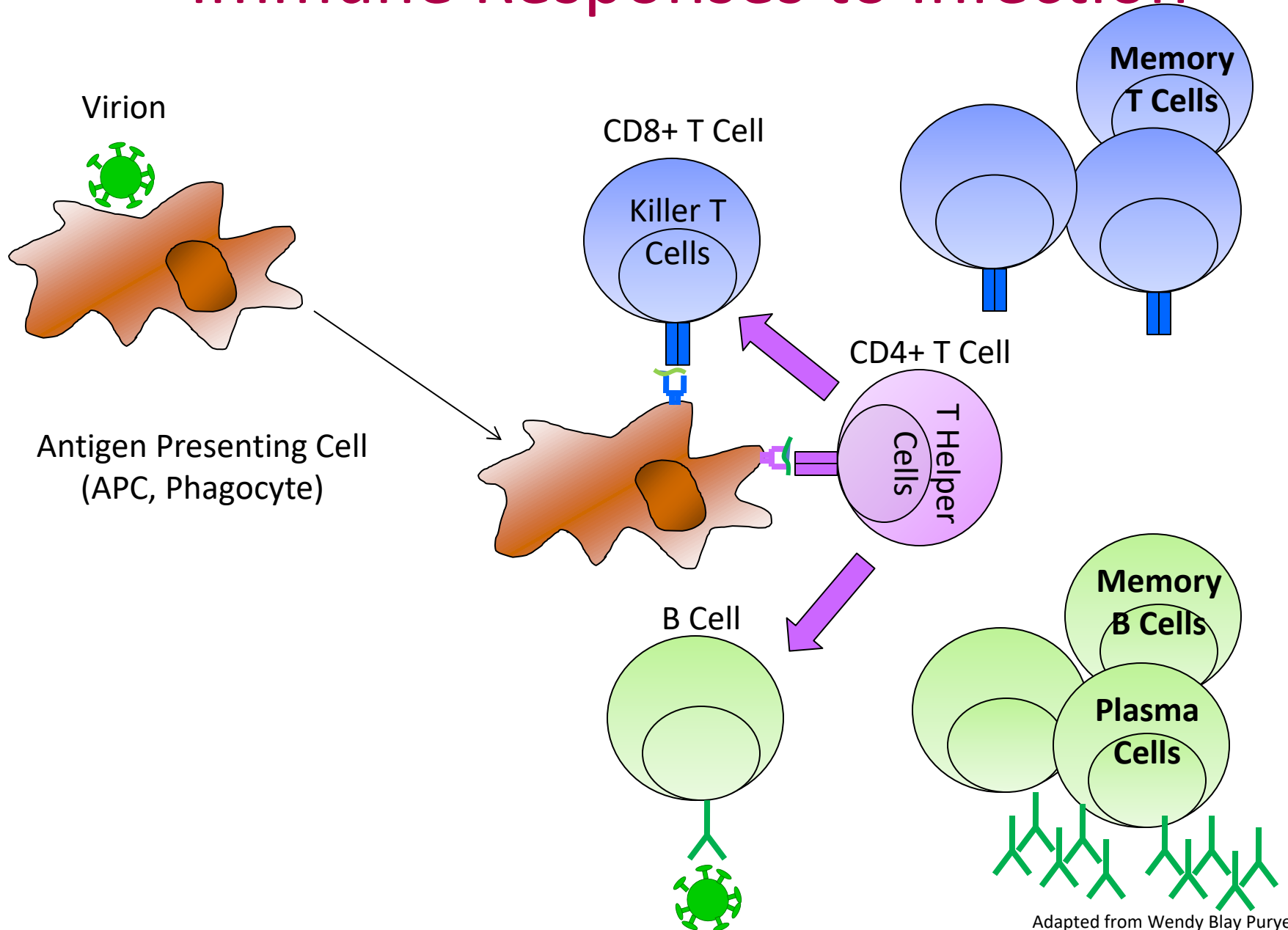
# Immune Responses to Infection



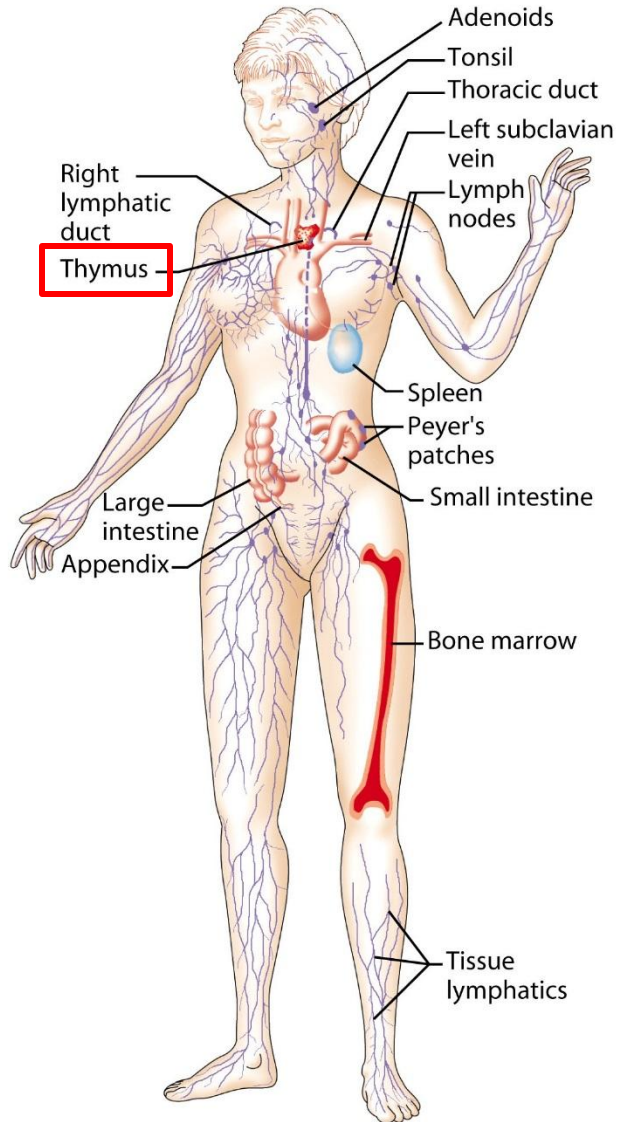
# Immune Responses to Infection



# Immune Responses to Infection



# Organs of the Immune System



## Primary Organs: Production of Cells

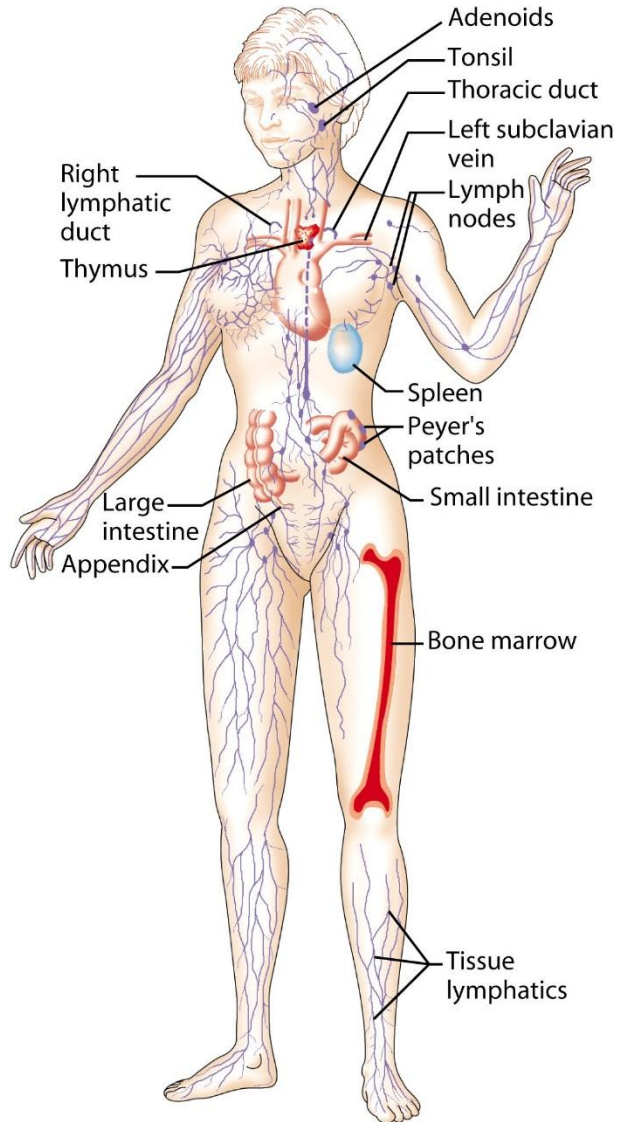
1 - **Bone Marrow** – production of all hematopoietic cells (“white blood cells”).

- B cells
- T cells
- Other immune cells and red blood cells

2 – **Thymus** – T cells “mature”



# Organs of the Immune System



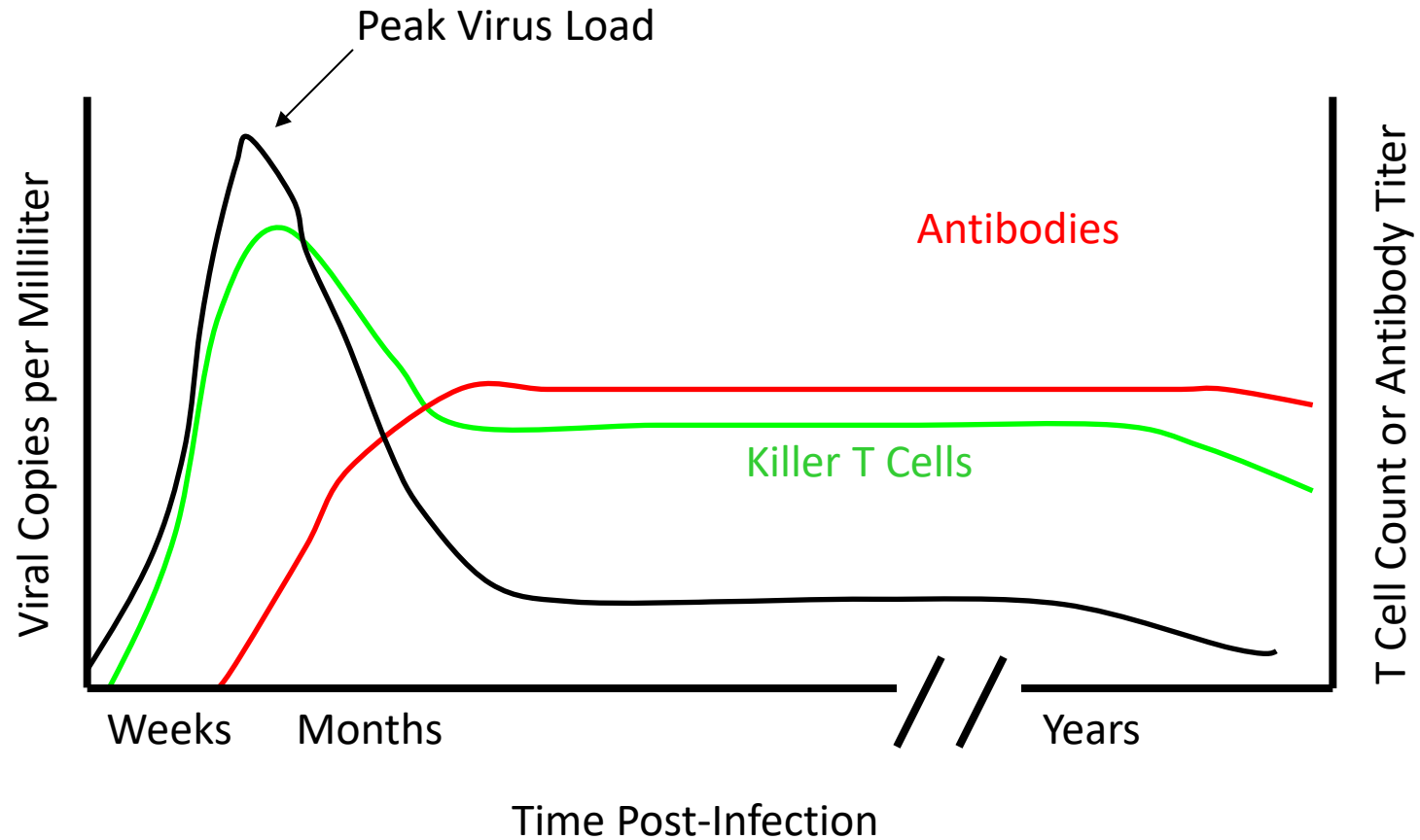
## Secondary Organs: Initiation of the “Adaptive Immune Response” (response to a specific pathogen)

### 1 – Lymph Nodes

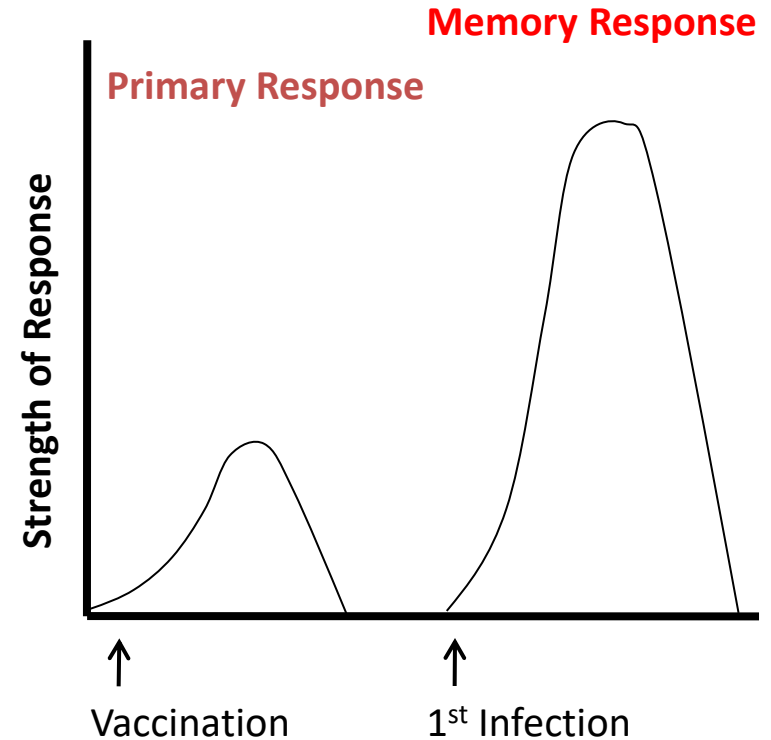
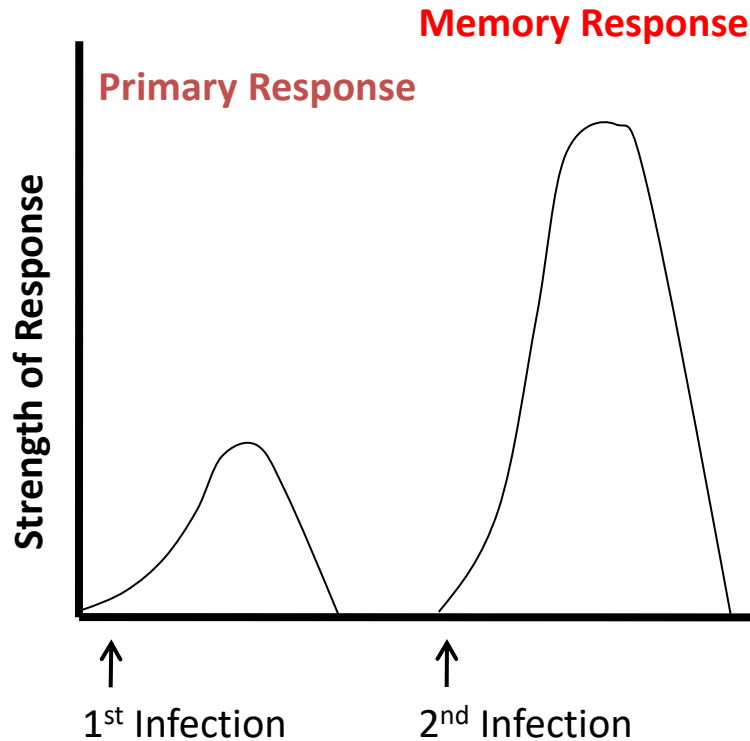
### 2 – Spleen

APCs interact with mature B and T cells to start adaptive immune response

# How the Immune System Responds to Viral Infection



# The Power of Immune Memory

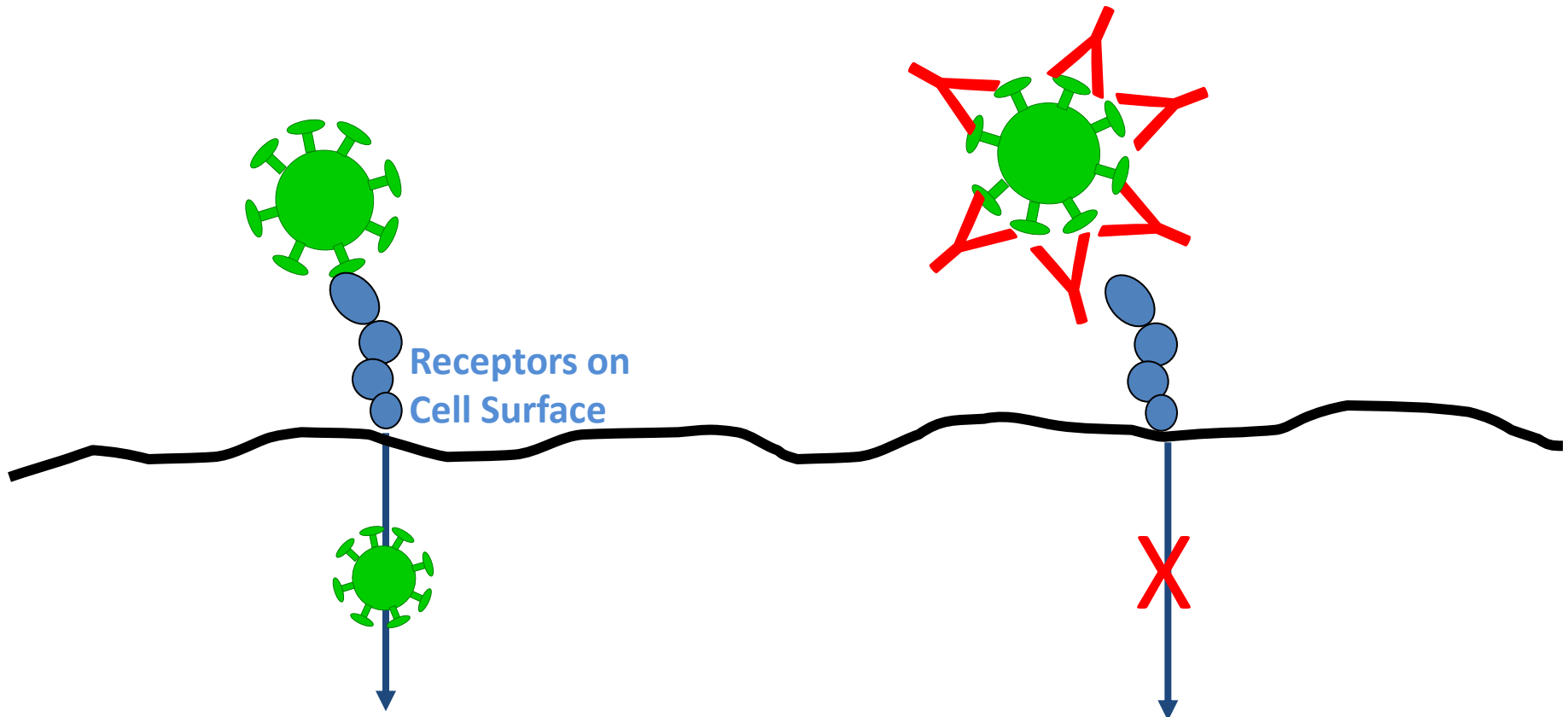


# What are Antibodies?

# Antibodies are Proteins Made by the Immune System to Fight Infection

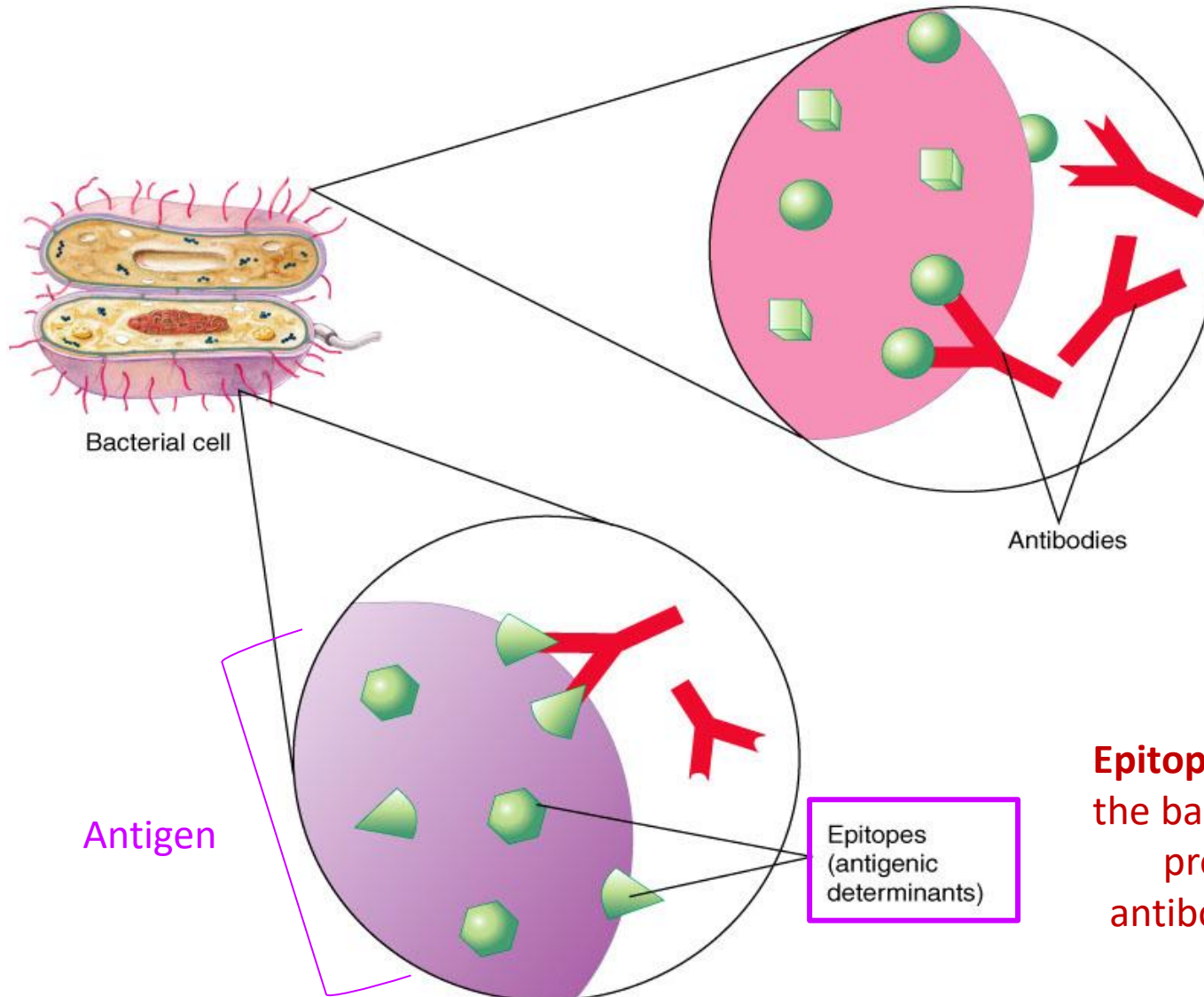
No Antibody:  
Virus Enters Cell

Antibody Blocks Virus  
from Entering your Cells



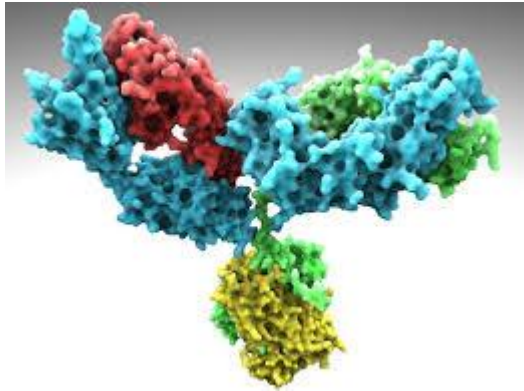
# Antibodies Bind to Proteins

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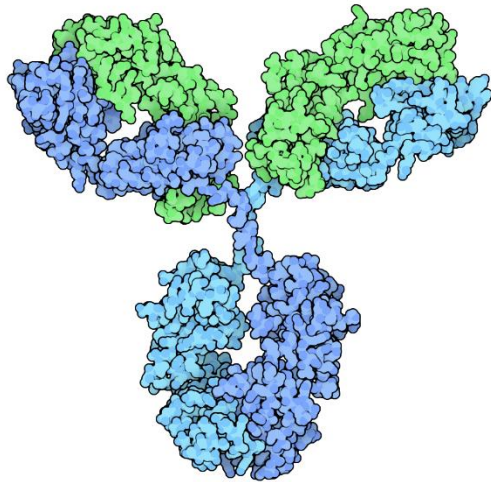
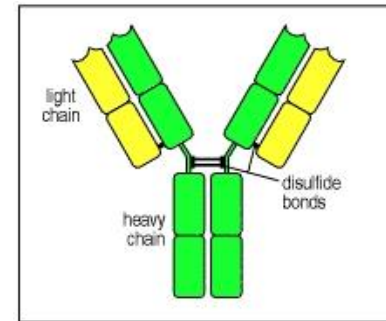


**Epitope:** The part of the bacterial or viral protein that antibodies bind to

# What do Antibodies Look Like?



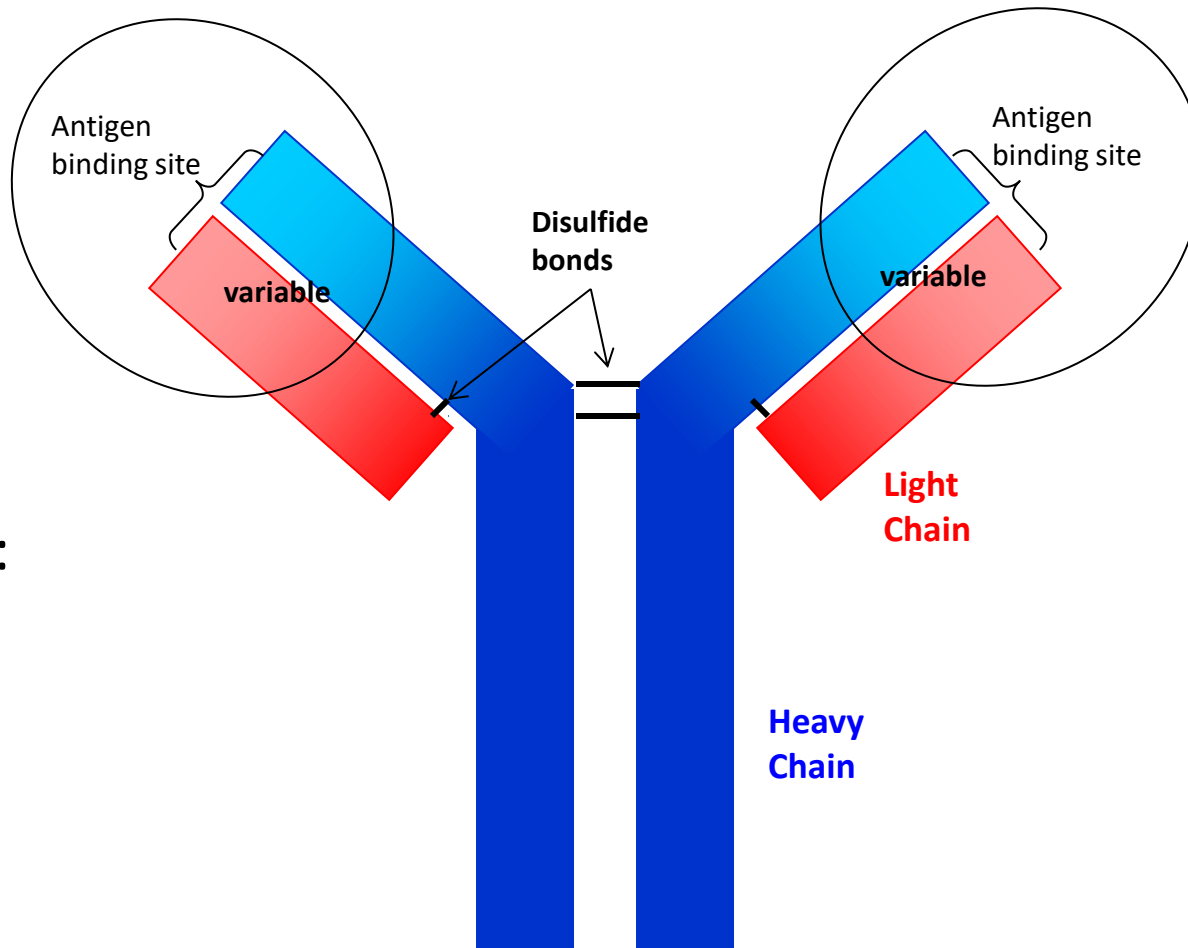
Y



There are many kinds of antibodies, also called **Immunoglobins** (“Ig”).

The most common is called “**IgG**.”

# How do 2 genes create antibodies that can bind to any foreign object?

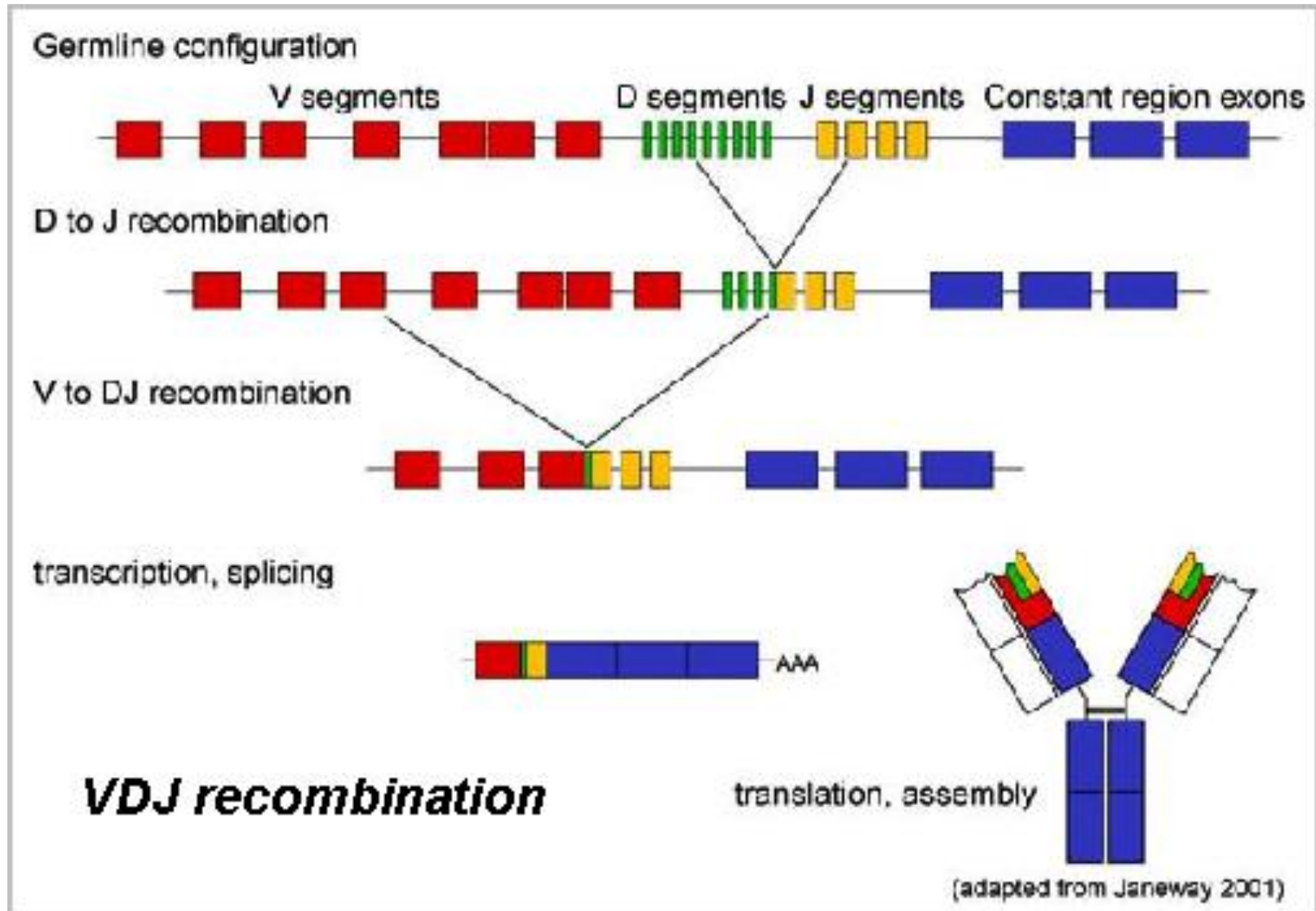


## Isotypes:

- IgA
- IgD
- IgG
- IgE
- IgM



# Antibody Diversity is Achieved via Genetic Recombination

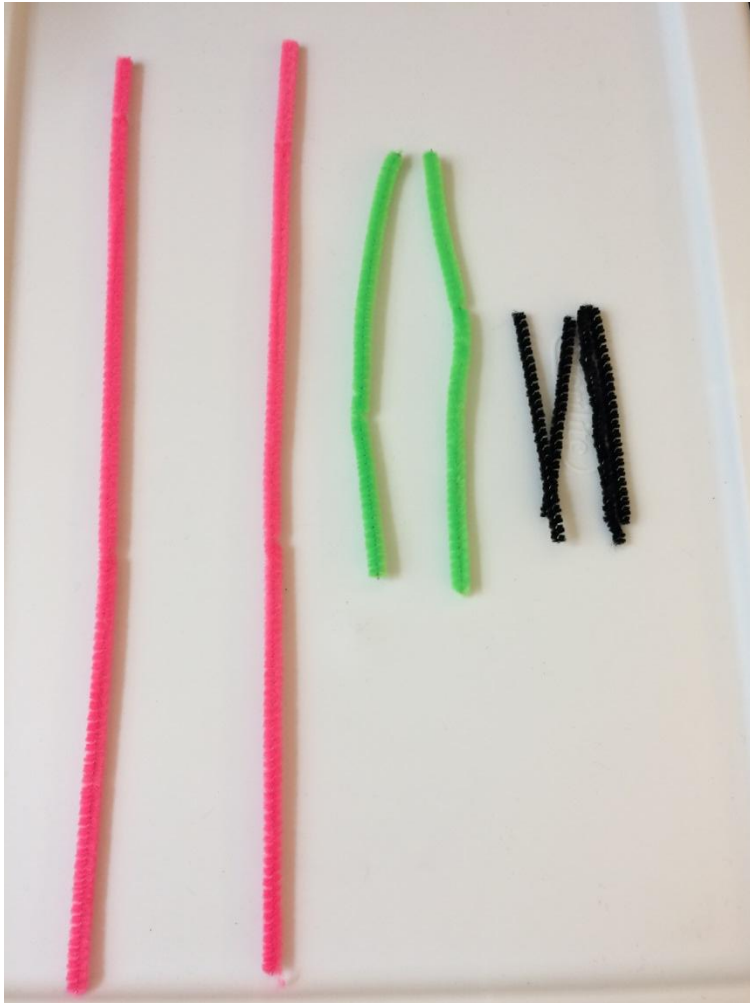


# The Human Genome Contains Multiple Heavy and Light Chain Gene Segments

Number of functional gene segments in human immunoglobulin loci			
Segment	Light chains		Heavy chain
	$\kappa$	$\lambda$	H
Variable (V)	40	30	40
Diversity (D)	0	0	25
Joining (J)	5	4	6

Figure 4-3 Immunobiology, 7ed. (© Garland Science 2008)

# Gather Your Materials



- 2 long chenille stems of the same color = 2 heavy chains
- 2 short chenille stems of the same color = 2 light chains
- 4 small black chenille stem pieces = disulfide bonds

# Disulfide Bonds on Heavy Chains



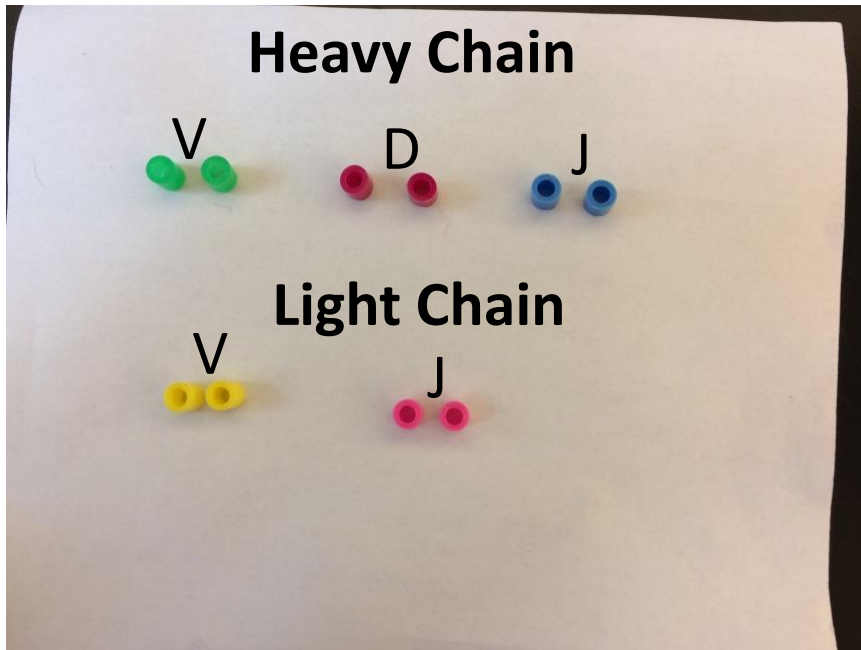
- Use two black 'disulfide bonds' to attach the two heavy chains
- Bend the two 'arms' of the antibody model apart

# Disulfide Bonds on Light Chains



- Attach each light chain to each heavy chain using 1 disulfide bond each

# Increasing Antibody Diversity: V(D)J Regions



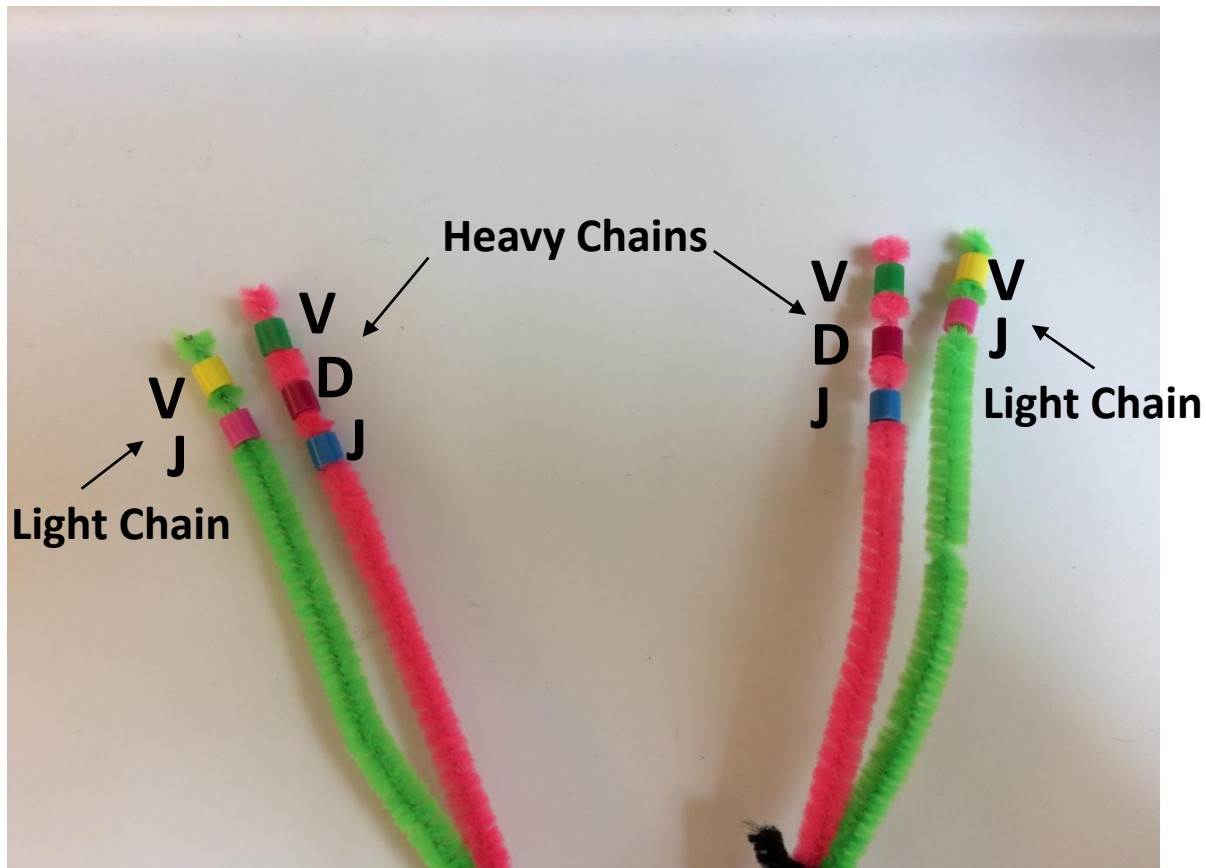
- **Heavy Chains:**

- Choose 2 “V” beads
- Choose 2 “D” beads
- Choose 2 “J” beads

- **Light Chains:**

- Choose 2 “V” beads
- Choose 2 “J” beads
- *Light chains don't have D regions*

# Increasing Antibody Diversity: V(D)J Regions



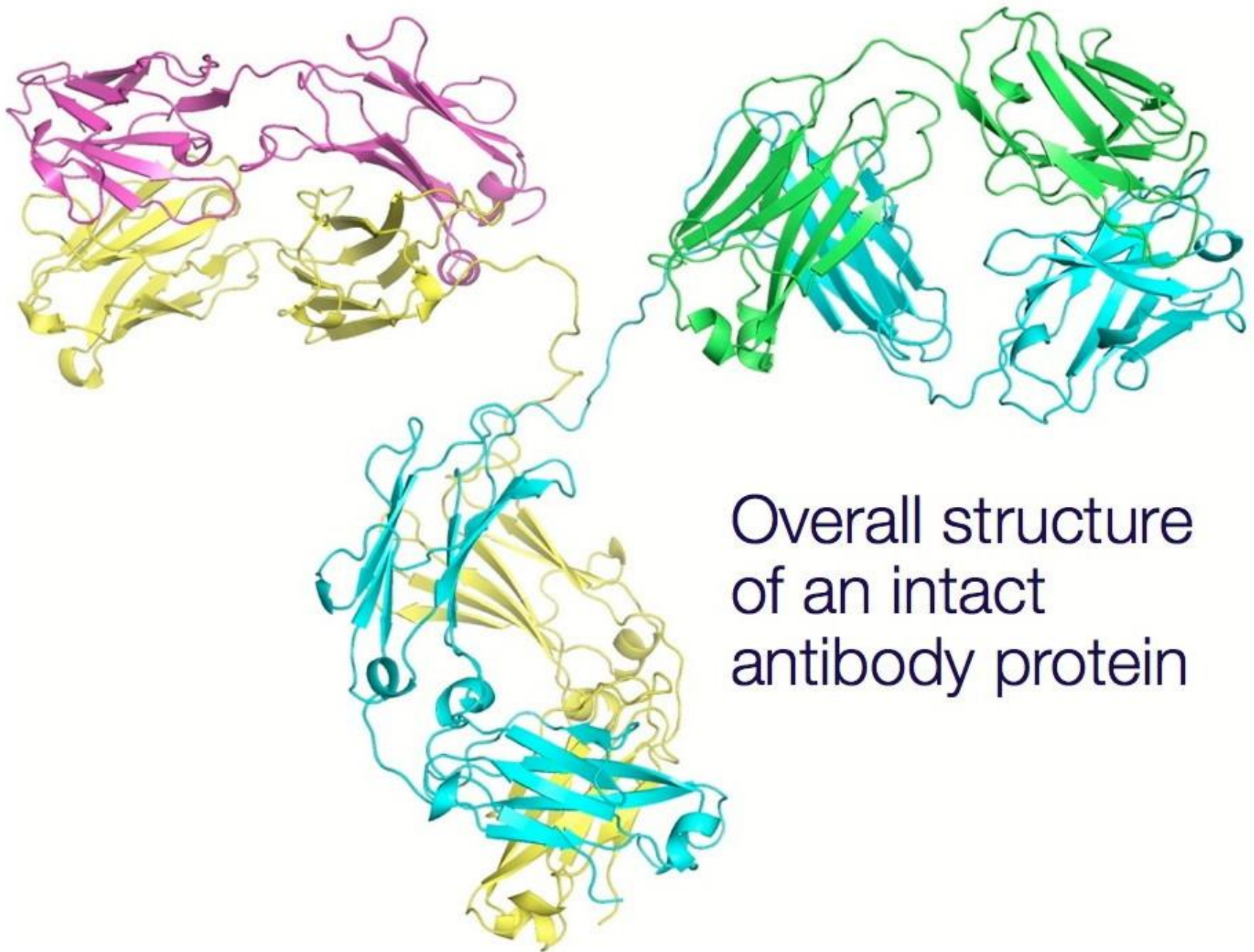
- Place the 3 V, D and J beads on each heavy chain
- Place the 2 V and J beads on each light chain



# Final Antibody Structure: Each One is Different!







Overall structure  
of an intact  
antibody protein

# Why Study Influenza?

- Fairly common infectious agent
  - Annual **prevalence** 1.5-70% (“**prevalence**” = how many people are infected at one time)
  - 3-5 million cases & 250,000-500,000 deaths worldwide
  - 36,000 deaths & 200,000 hospitalizations in US, mostly the very young & the elderly
- Risk of pandemic: ~3 / century, kills 2-5% of world population
- Need for effective vaccines & therapeutics
  - Current vaccines updated annually (there is no ‘universal’ vaccine)
  - Current therapeutics (Zanamivir / Ralenza & Oseltamivir / Tamiflu are modestly effective at limiting symptoms -> resistance)

# Annual Economic Costs of Influenza

Table 1

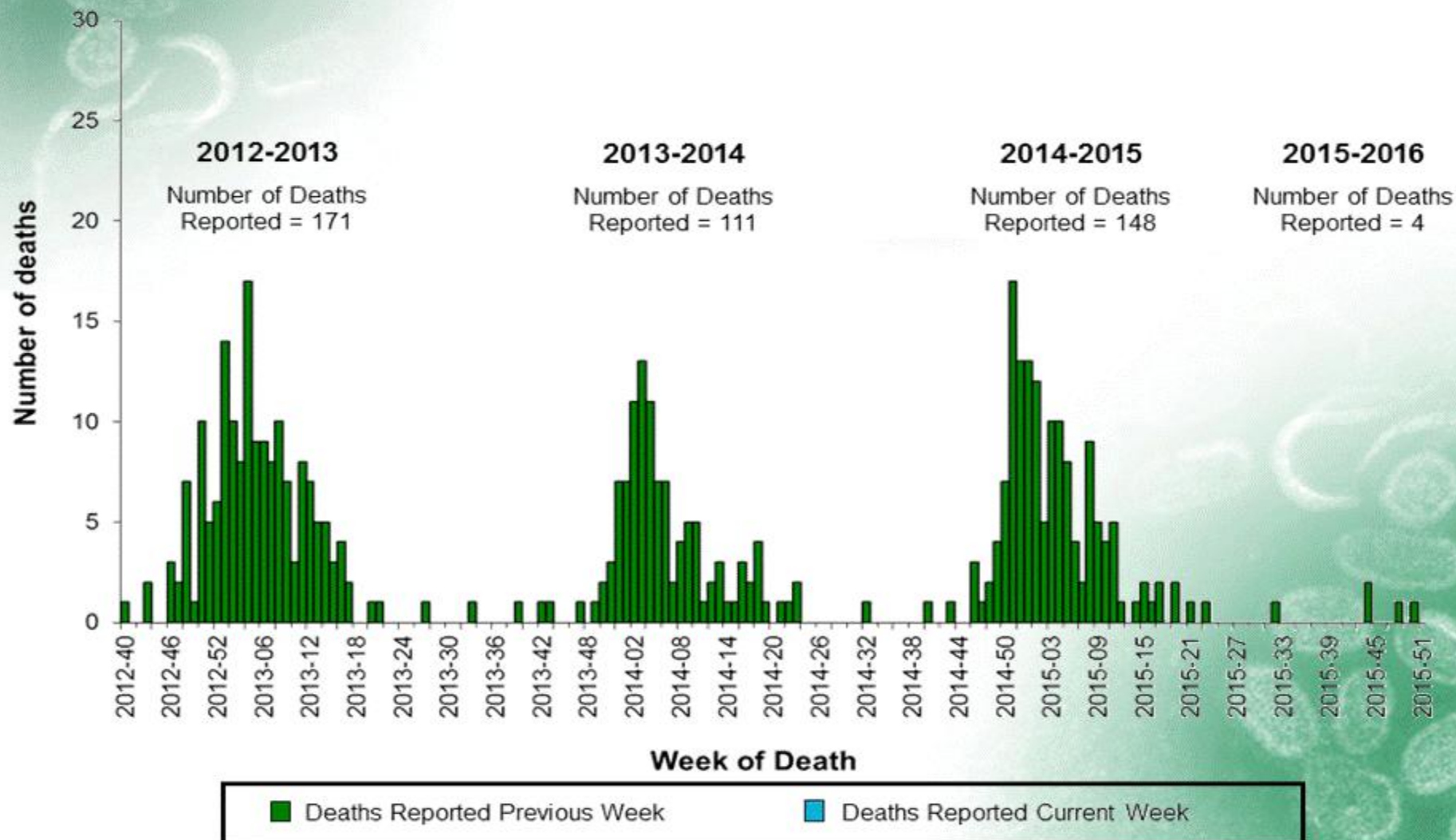
Estimated annual influenza impacts on the entire US using population and costs of 2010

	Total	Lower 95%CI	Upper 95%CI
<b>Number of cases (Million)</b>	25.34	24.83	25.86
<b>Direct costs (Millions \$)</b>	10,262.98	10,046.60	10,482.80
<b>Indirect costs (Millions \$)</b>	18,853.66	18,321.81	19,439.80
<b>Total economic costs (Millions \$)</b>	29,116.65	28,441.24	29,870.84

Source: Mao et al. 2012. Annual economic impacts of seasonal influenza on US counties: Spatial heterogeneity and patterns. *International Journal of Health Geography*. 11(16). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3479051/>. Accessed September 17, 2018.

A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division

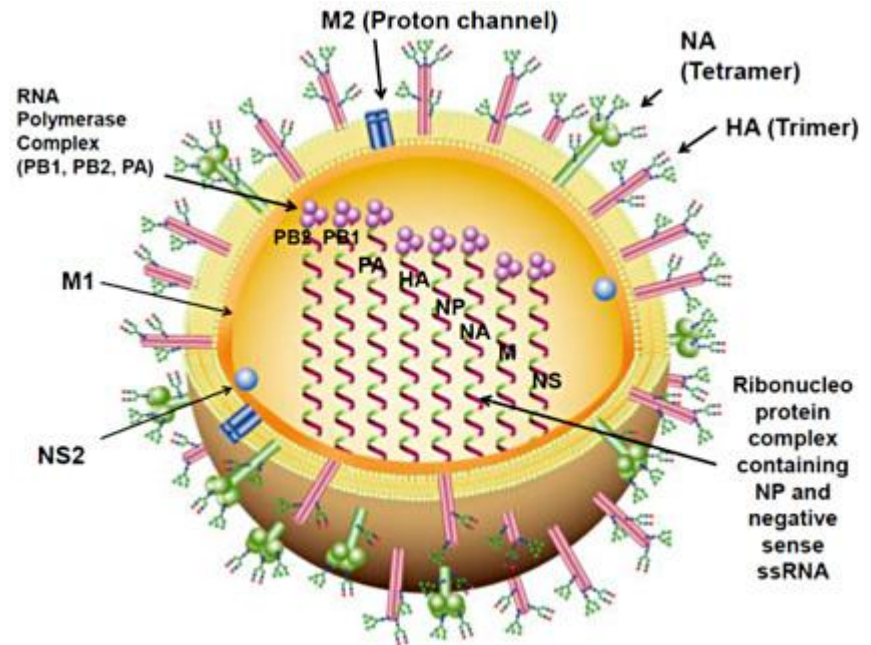
## Number of Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths by Week of Death: 2012-2013 season to present



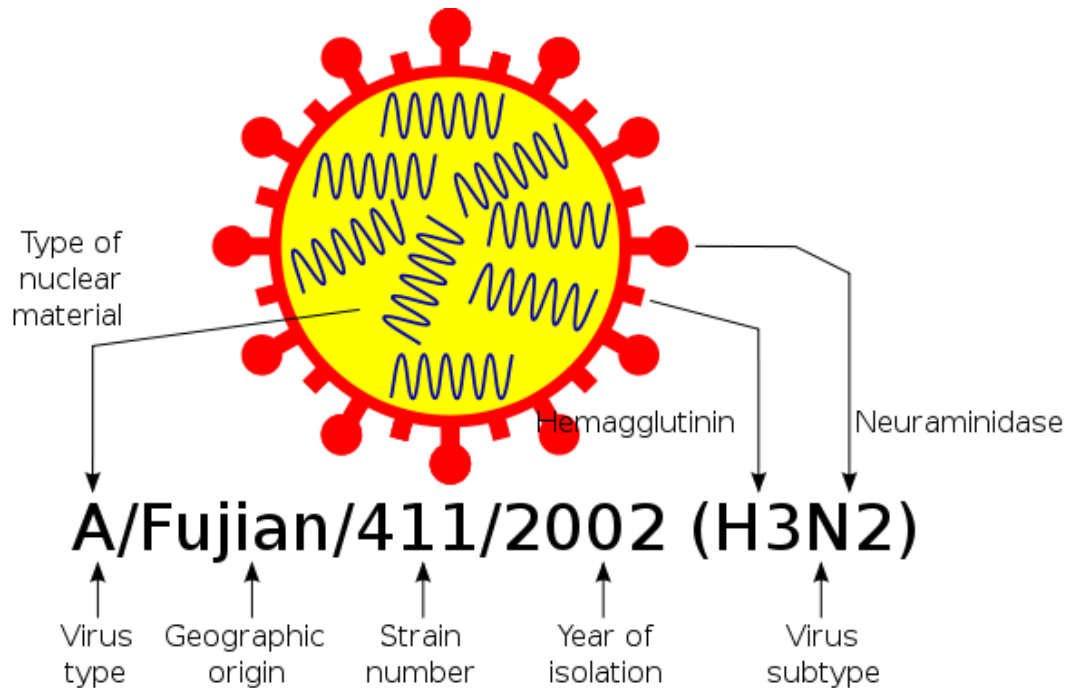


# Viral Structure

- Surface proteins
  - Hemagglutinin: protein the virus uses to get into the cell
  - Neuraminidase: protein the virus uses to get out of the cell
  - M2 (Proton channel)
- “Shell” of the virus is made of M1 proteins
- Inside:
  - Other proteins & **8 RNA segments** (genome)

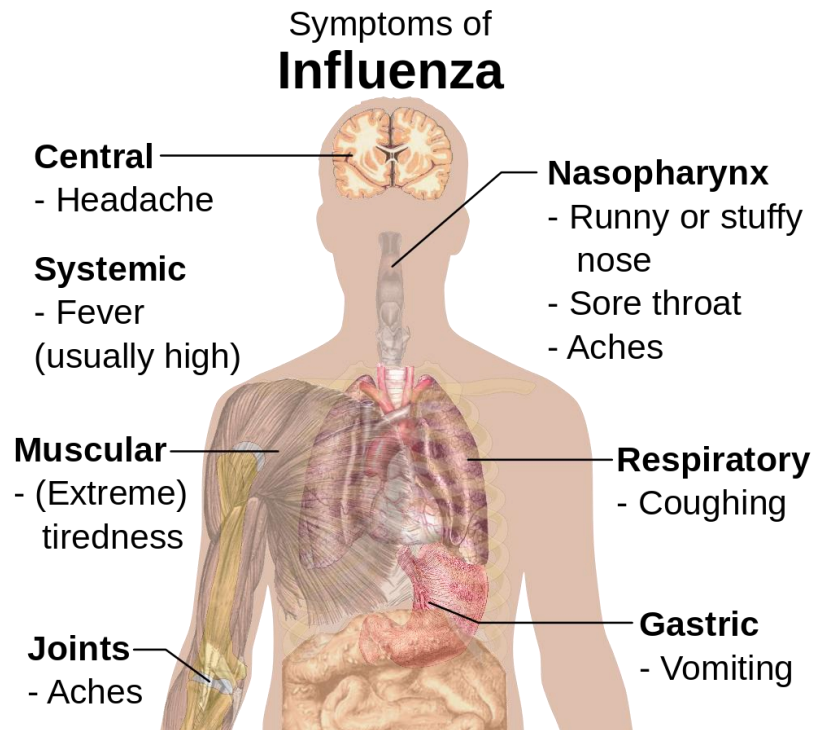


# How Viruses are Named



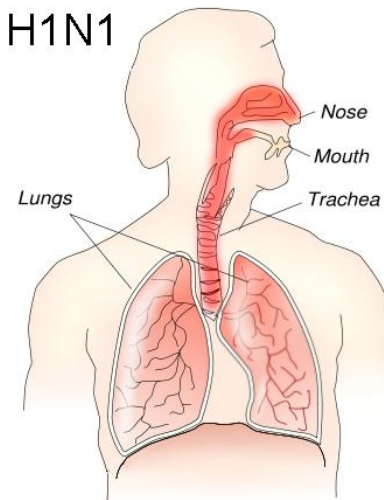
- H1 through H18
  - H1, H2 & H3 are most common in humans
- N1 through N11
  - N1 & N2 are most common in humans
- Different subtypes are ~50% the same
- Viruses within a subtype are ~90% the same

# Pathogenesis of Influenza



## Seasonal Flu

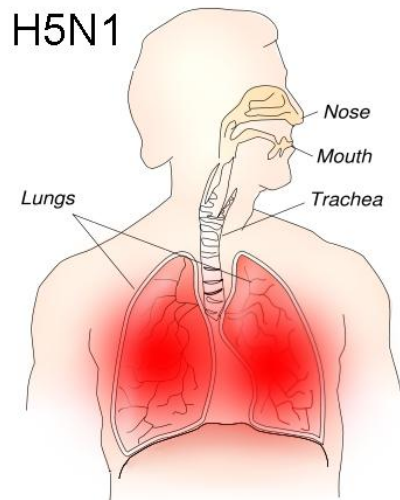
H1N1



Easily spread  
Rarely fatal

## Avian or "Bird" Flu

H5N1



Spreads slowly  
Often fatal

"Symptoms of influenza" by Häggström, Mikael. "Medical gallery of Mikael Häggström 2014". Wikiversity Journal of Medicine 1 (2). DOI:10.15347/wjm/2014.008. ISSN 20018762.

# Antibiotics Versus Antivirals

## Antibiotics Treat Bacteria

- Types of bacteria:
  - *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*)
  - *Staphylococcus aureus*
  - *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTb)
- How antibiotics work:
  - Classes of antibiotics work on multiple bacteria
  - Block things like:
    - Making a cell wall (penicillin)
    - Making bacterial proteins (streptomycin)

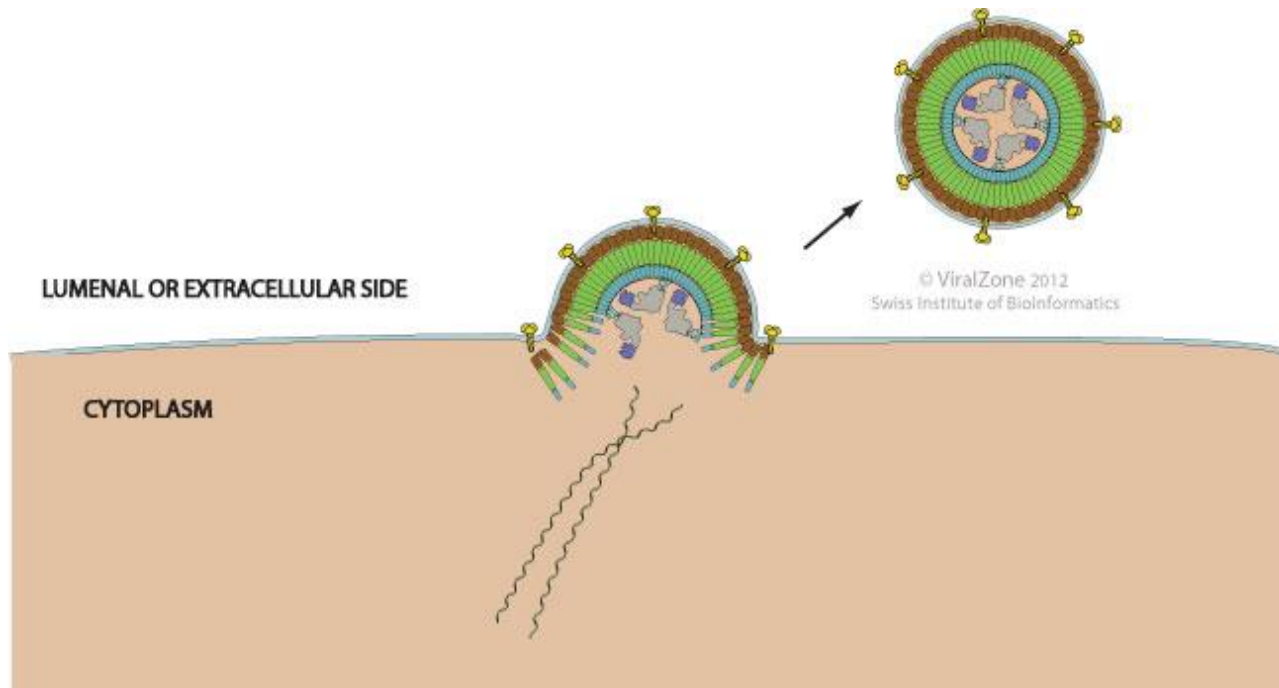
## Antivirals Treat Viruses

- Types of Viruses:
  - Influenza
  - HIV
  - Zika
  - Ebola
- How antivirals work:
  - Specific to each virus
  - Block things like:
    - Getting in the cell
    - Getting out of a cell
    - Making more viral genetic material

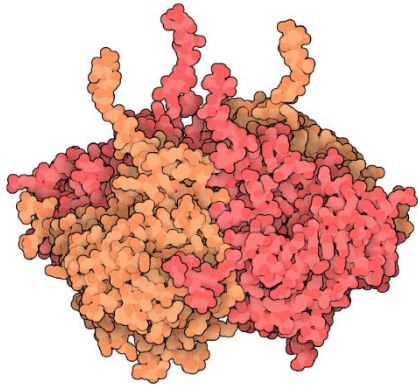


# Viruses Use YOUR Cell Membranes!

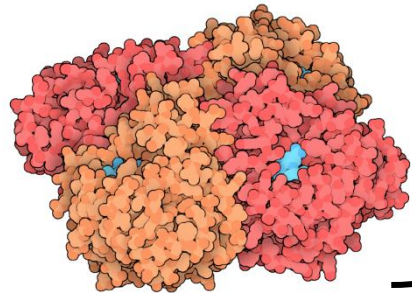
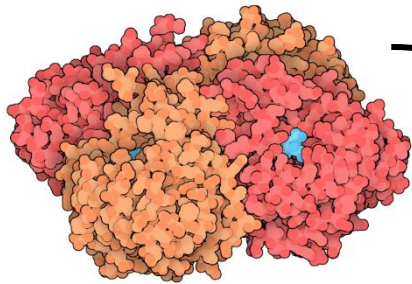
**Budding** = A new virus forms at the cell membrane and “buds” off the surface, taking your cell membrane with it.



# Antivirals Prevent Viral Budding

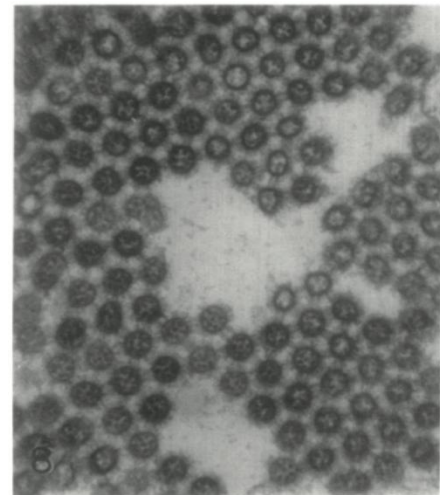


**No antivirals**



**Treatment with  
Oseltamivir (Tamiflu)**

**Viruses treated with antivirals like  
Tamiflu can't bud off the plasma  
membrane – they're stuck there!**



# Antigenic Drift: Small Changes Over Time

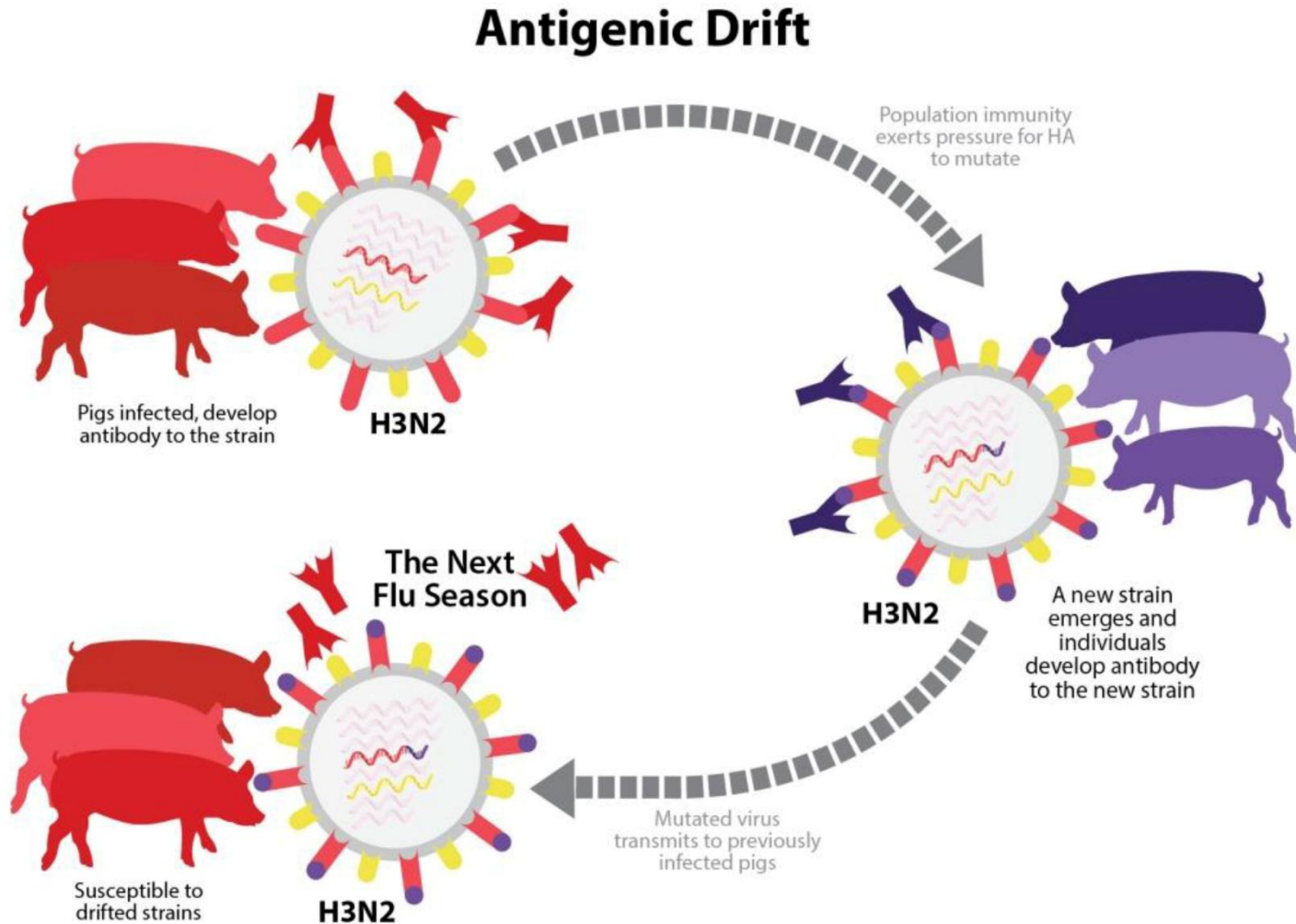
Every time the virus replicates, there are errors  
or mutations, ~1 per virus

Virus 1	ATGGCCAGTGACAGTCAAGTCAGTTGACATGACGTCA
Virus 2	ATGGC <b>T</b> AGTGACAGTCAAGTCAGTTGACATGACGTCA
Virus 3	ATGGCCAGTGACAGTCA <b>G</b> GTCAGTTGACATGACGTCA
Virus 4	ATGGCCAGTG <b>T</b> CAGTCAAGTCAGTTGACATGACGTCA
Virus 5	ATGGCCAGTGACAGTCAAGTCAGTTGACA <b>A</b> GACGTCA

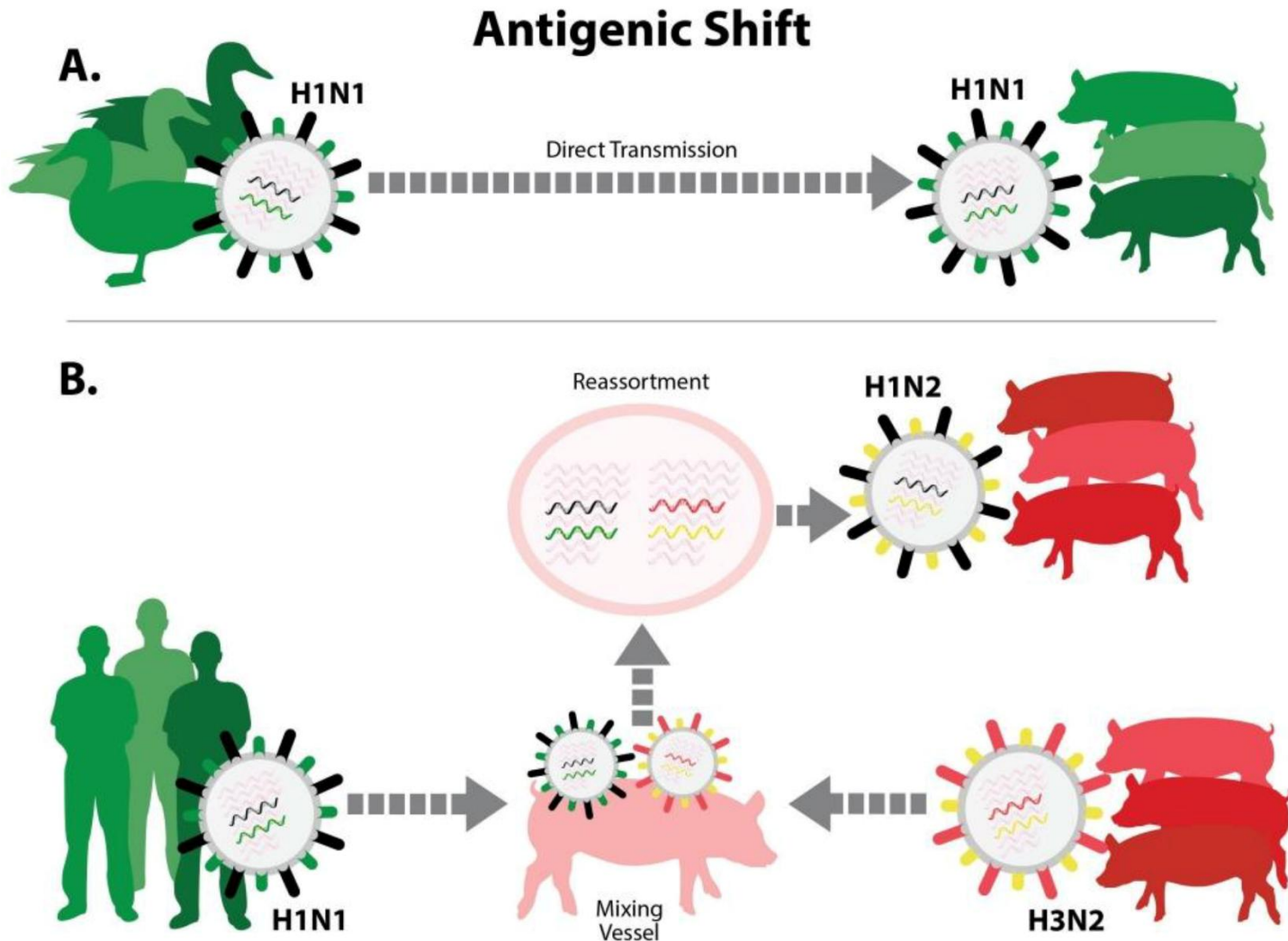
# What is a zoonotic disease?

- Greek: *zoon* "animal" and *nosos* "ailment"
  - “are infectious diseases of animals (usually vertebrates), that can naturally be transmitted to humans.”  
[Wikipedia]
- **Direct:** From animals to humans [influenza, rabies]
- **Indirect:** From **reservoir** animals to **vector** [such as ticks, mosquitos, fleas] to humans [malaria, Dengue, Chagas, West Nile fever, Lyme disease]

# Antigenic Drift: Small Changes Over Time



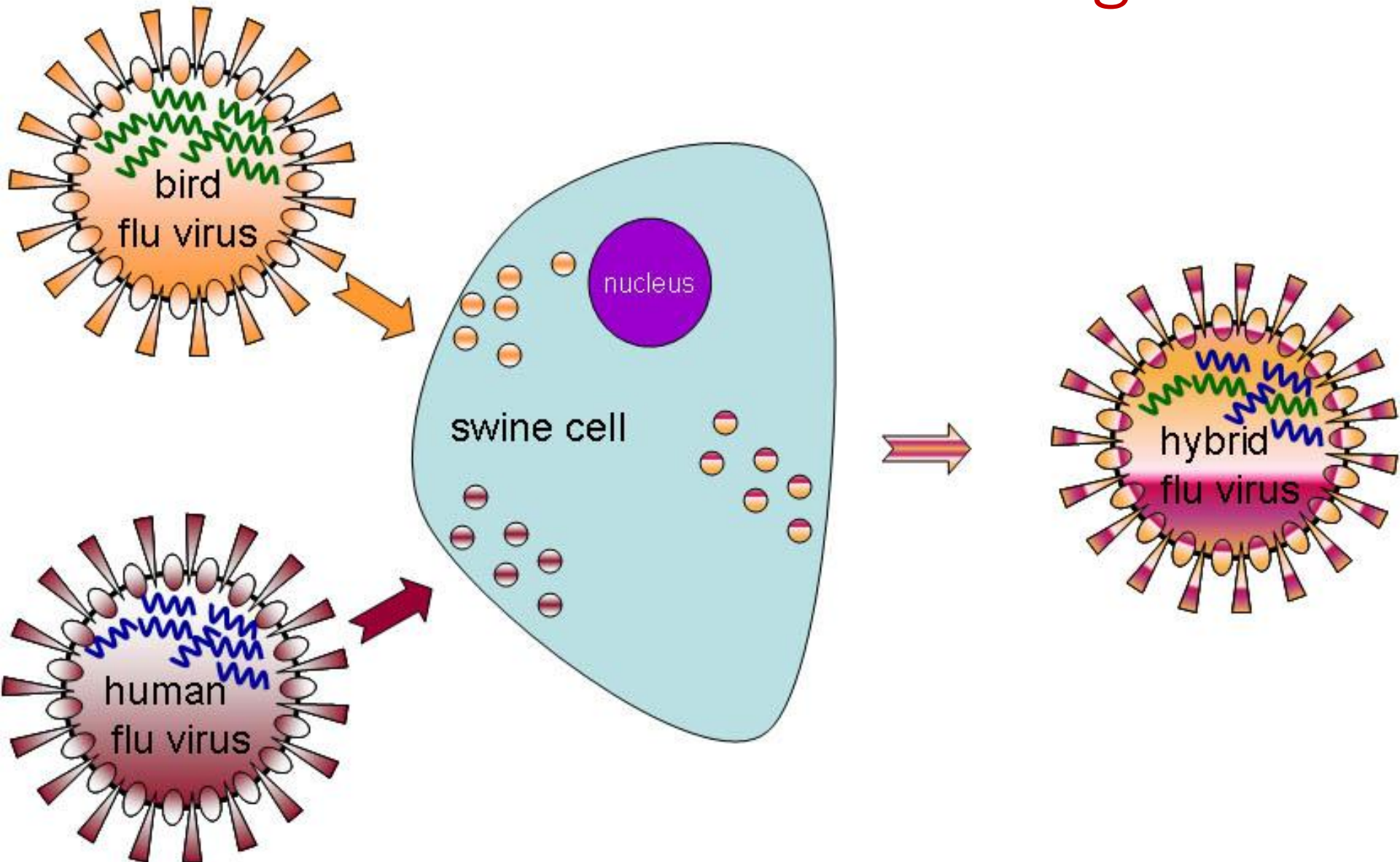
# Antigenic Shift: Big Changes in a Short Time



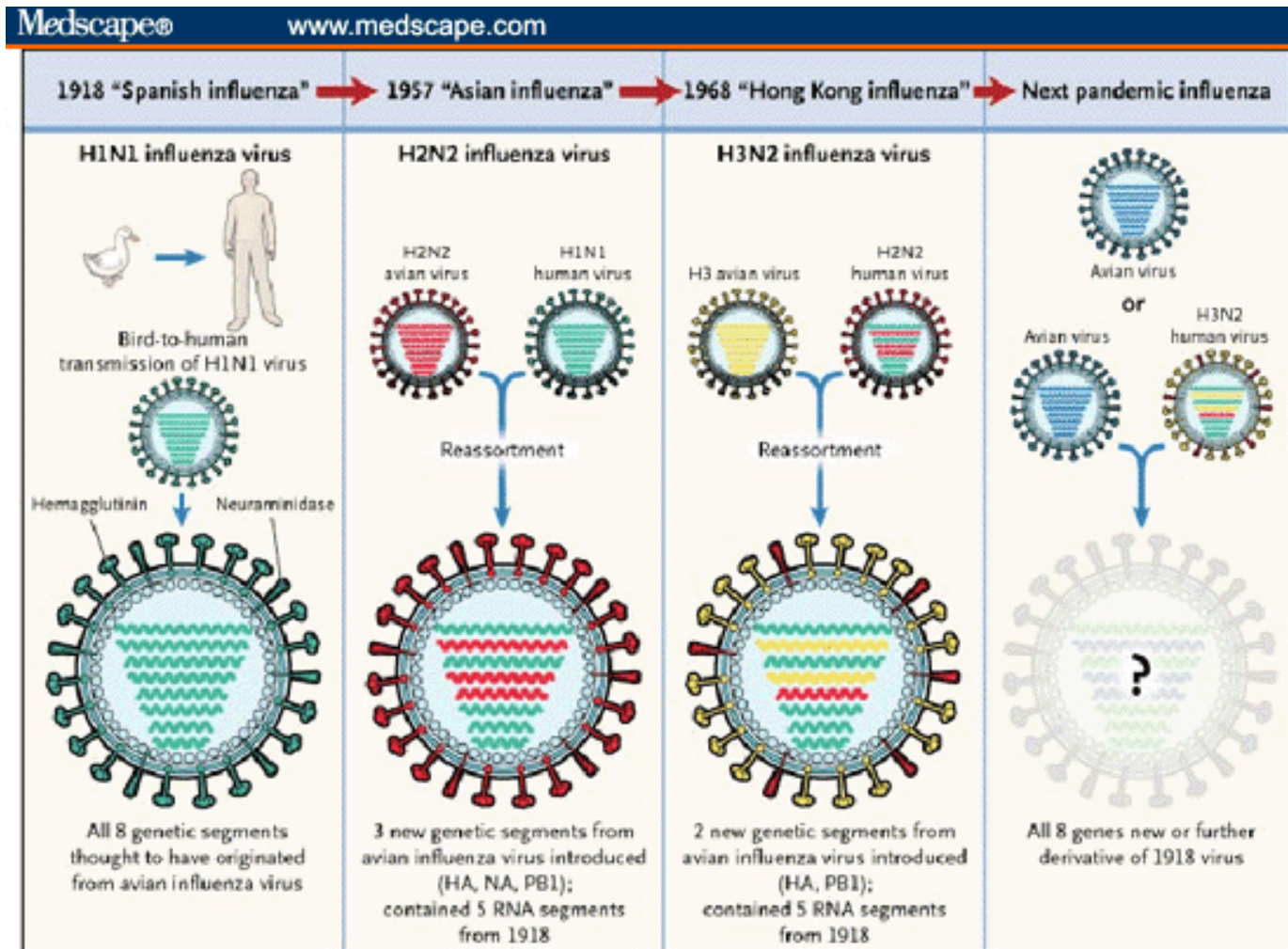


## Antigenic Shift

# Co-Infection of a Single Cell



# The Major Influenza Pandemics of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century






# Influ-Venn-Za

Who can catch which flu?

April 22nd 2013 - suspected mutation of an avian virus emerged outside Shanghai, China. Human fatality rate is unknown but out of 101 people infected, 20 have died.

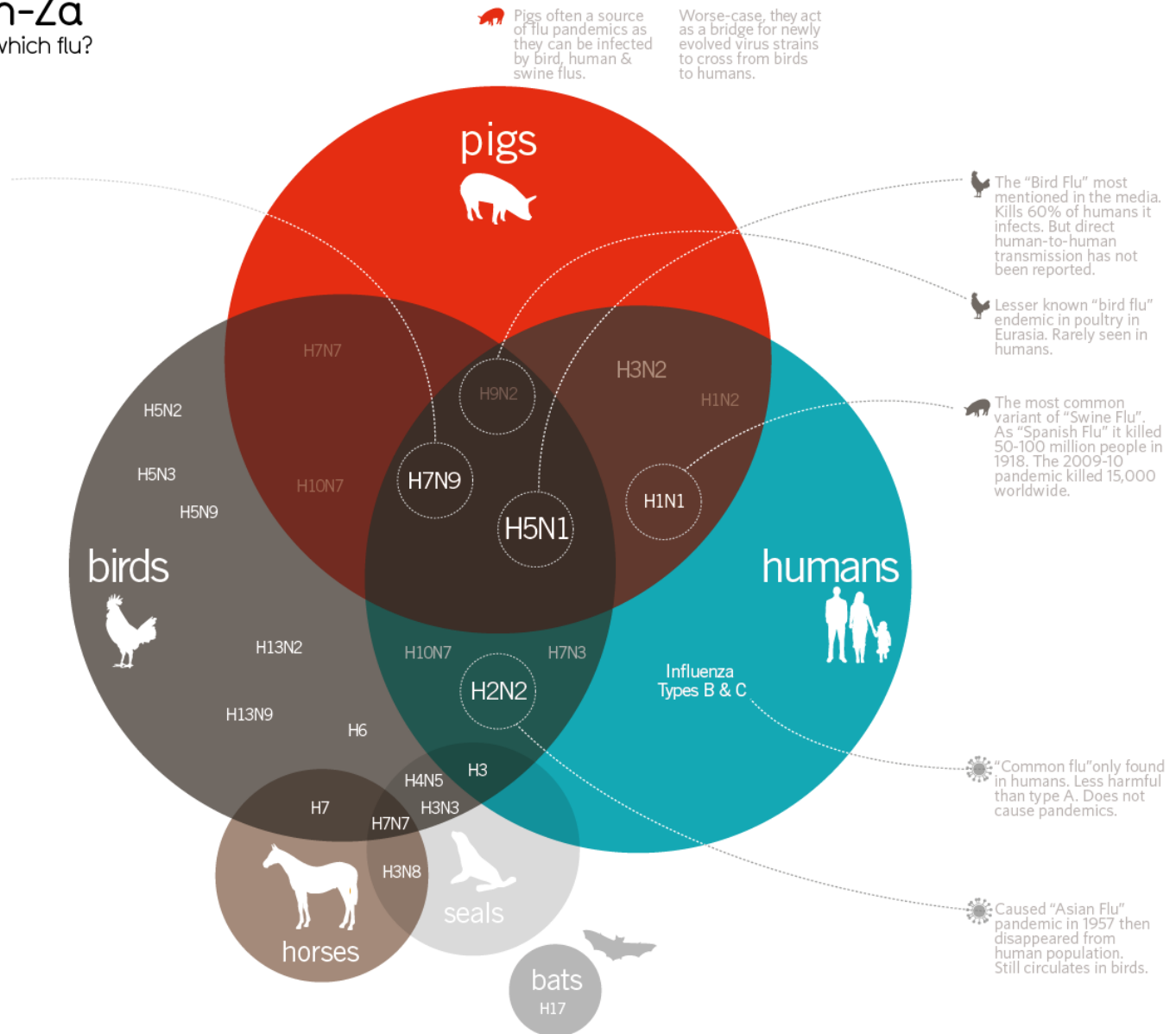
 Influenza Type A is divided into H & N strains (i.e. H1N1) referring to different combinations of:

**H** = hemagglutinin (binds to cells)

**N** = neuraminidase (surface enzyme)

text SIZE  
= human fatality rate

LIGHT TEXT  
= rarely infects humans



# Epidemiology Teams

- Epidemic = presence of disease *in one place*.
  - “Epi-” from the Greek “upon” or “on” the “-demos” or “people”
- -logy = the study of
- Epidemiology = “the branch of medicine that deals with the incidence, distribution, and possible control of diseases and other factors relating to health.”
- Pandemic = epidemic over a large area, often world-wide
  - “Pan” from the Greek meaning “all” of the “-demos” or “people”

# Epidemiological Investigation

- Each lab group will be assigned four patient samples to analyze
- **Methods used:**
  - Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (**ELISA**) – To test for the presence of anti-influenza antibodies
  - Polymerase Chain Reaction (**PCR**) – To test for the presence of the influenza virus
- Why is it good to have multiple methods to diagnose disease?
- What are some factors to consider when determining which method(s) to use?