

Name _____

Viral Villains: Exploring Examples of Pathogenic Viruses

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. One way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community is by practicing social distancing and avoiding close contact with others, especially in crowded or indoor settings. Additionally, wearing masks, washing hands frequently, and getting vaccinated can help reduce transmission.
2. HIV weakens the immune system over time by targeting and destroying CD4 cells, a type of white blood cell that plays a crucial role in the body's immune response. As the number of CD4 cells decreases, the body becomes less able to fight off infections, making individuals more susceptible to opportunistic infections.
3. Treatment for herpes simplex virus infections typically involves antiviral medications to reduce the severity and duration of symptoms. These medications can help alleviate pain, speed up healing, and reduce the risk of transmitting the virus to others. In addition to medication, practicing safe sex and avoiding contact with active lesions can help prevent the spread of herpes simplex virus.
4. It is important to get vaccinated against the flu to protect yourself and others from the virus. Flu vaccines help reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death, especially among high-risk groups like young children, older adults, and individuals with underlying health conditions. Getting vaccinated also helps prevent the spread of flu in the community, reducing the overall burden of flu-related illness and complications.

