

March 14, 2020

# Why Bat Viruses Are So Dangerous

## Activity Guide for Students: Collaborating to Stop an Epidemic

### Directions:

In this activity, you will be acting as officers of the World Health Organization who have just been notified of a new outbreak of a zoonotic disease. It will be up to you to develop committees and action plans to prevent the spread of the disease. After presenting your action plan to your teacher, the head of WHO, and the other committees, you will revise your plan.

### The setup

Answer the following questions as a class:

1. What information do you already know about this disease and what other information do you want to find out?
2. Who would be affected by the global outbreak of this disease?
3. How do various people, countries and international organizations work together to ensure world health?

### Action plans

After your class has brainstormed and identified committees, answer the following question in your group:

4. What committees has your class identified?
5. What committee are you on?
6. What are some general responsibilities of your committee?
7. What are some concerns that this committee will need to think about?

8. What questions does the committee need to answer?

9. What goals does the committee need to achieve?

10. How do the committee goals help serve the general purpose of preventing further spread of the disease?

11. What are five immediate steps that need to be taken to answer the questions and meet the goals?

12. What two steps would need to be taken in the future (within the next five years)?

### **Presentations and revisions**

After presenting your action plan and receiving feedback, revise your plans and answer the following questions:

13. How could you incorporate feedback from different committees into your portion of the action plan? Provide examples from at least two different committees.

14. What do you think is the most crucial part of your action plan to help prevent the spread of the disease? Be sure to support your claim with a well-reasoned and detailed response.

15. Why is it important to collaborate and seek feedback from other committees working toward the same overall goal?

16. How can your committee combine resources and expertise with other committees to most effectively reach the overall goal?