

Name: _____

COVID-19 Webinar Questions



Review

1) Why do people generally not consider a virus to be alive? What characteristics of life do viruses have?

2) What is the basic structure of the SARS-CoV-2 virus?

3) What is a zoonotic disease?

4) Why do scientists monitor zoonotic diseases?

5) Usually we think of mutations as bad things. Why does a high mutation rate sometimes help viruses be transmitted?

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6) How do evolutionary trees (phylogenetic trees) help us track viruses around the globe?



7) How do we know where SARS-CoV-2 came from before it infected humans?

8) What makes a qPCR different from a regular PCR?

9) What makes qPCR good for clinical tests?

10) What are some limitations of using qPCR?

11) What are some advantages and disadvantages of antibody testing?

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Critical thinking

1) Describe steps in the life cycle of the virus. Which step would you try to block to prevent infection? Which step(s) would you aim to interfere with as a treatment for already infected patients?

2) If there were a new virus circulating and people had no idea what it was, could you use a qPCR test to test for it? Why do you think that?

3) What do you think would happen to SARS-CoV-2 if we could completely isolate every human being for the next four weeks? Would the world be free of the virus? Justify your answer.