

# Viruses

## Viruses:

- Are not cells
- Do not use their own energy to grow or respond to their environment.
- Cannot make food, take in food or produce waste
  - Viruses exist in a variety of shapes and sizes - 50-200nm
- Non-living disease causing particle
- Can infect many organisms
- Require a host for reproduction
- Each virus contains:
  - DNA or RNA (genetic information) and a protein coat

Host: An organism that provides a source of energy for a virus or another organism.

Parasite: Organism that lives on or in a host and causes it harm

- Bacteriophage - "bacteria eater"
  - infect bacteria

There are two types of viruses:

1. Active virus - immediately takes over
2. Hidden virus - hides for a while