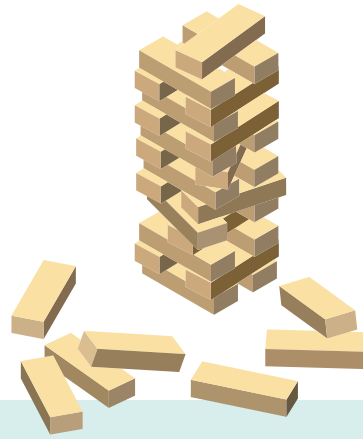


HERD IMMUNITY JENGA



Herd immunity – what is it and how does it work? Learn about herd immunity and why vaccinations are important in preventing the spread of diseases through a fun game of Jenga!

You will need two sets of Jenga blocks to demonstrate this concept.

The blocks should all be in the same size, but Set B should be in a different colour to Set A (you can paint the blocks or colour them in using a coloured marker).

Set Up:

1. Swap 10 blocks from Set A (uncoloured) with 10 blocks from Set B (coloured), so that there are 10 blocks in each set of a different colour.
2. Each Jenga tower represents a group of people. Shuffle the blocks in Set A and pile them up into a tower. Repeat with Set B so that you have two towers in front of you.

Game:

In both games, the uncoloured blocks represent people **who have not been vaccinated** in the community you live in. You will act as a disease and try to infect those who are unvaccinated by removing these blocks.

Set A

In this set, most of the blocks are uncoloured with only 10 coloured blocks. Play a game of Jenga and remove all the uncoloured blocks, which represent those who have not been vaccinated. What happens to your tower as you remove the uncoloured blocks? Did it collapse?

Think: When the majority of the population are not vaccinated against a specific disease, for example measles or COVID-19, this can easily develop into an outbreak of infection and lots of people can become sick very quickly. This is represented through the tower collapsing.

Set B

In this set, most people have been vaccinated against the disease, with only 10 unvaccinated people represented by the uncoloured blocks. Again, play a game of Jenga and remove all the uncoloured blocks. Were you able to do it relatively easily?































































Think: You may notice that your tower is still standing. This is because of the high level of vaccination in this population, which is known as herd immunity. When herd immunity is high, the chances of people coming into contact with the disease is reduced. This protects not only the individual but also those most vulnerable in their community who may not be able to get vaccinated themselves.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HERD IMMUNITY THROUGH THE GAME BELOW!

Start with the person in the top left corner of the board and see how many people you can infect. You can infect by moving up, down, left or right (but not diagonally), and you can only infect those who are unvaccinated, represented by the uncoloured people on the board.

Start Here

The people who are coloured green have been vaccinated and cannot get infected.

DID YOU KNOW?

At Telethon Kids Institute, we have researchers who study a wide range of infectious diseases, such as COVID-19 and the flu virus, to find out how we can stop them from spreading in the community and making people sick. Some of the ways they do this is by developing vaccines and learning more about our immune system.

