

Swiss Cheese Model

This lesson was written in August 2021 and reflects information available, and guidance issued at the time.



Objectives:

- To list some simple actions we can take to stop the COVID-19 virus from spreading
- To describe in own words how each action works.
- To understand that a few actions together can help to stop the COVID-19 virus spreading.

Curriculum Links:

PSHE: H5. simple hygiene routines that can stop germs from spreading

PSHE- L1. what rules are, why they are needed, and why different rules are needed for different situations

Key Vocabulary:

- Prevent
- Action
- Spread

Resources:

- Plastic bottle,
- Rice/beads
- Pieces of card (as cheese slices)
- Hole punch

OR

- Cutlery/pen basket with holes
- Straws
- pompoms or bouncy balls

FAQs:

Why can vaccinated people still catch the virus? Does it mean the vaccinations aren't working properly?

The main purposes of the vaccine are to reduce the risk of serious illness from catching the virus and to protect other people in your community. The vaccine is doing a brilliant job but vaccinated people can still catch the virus and pass it on to others – this is particularly true for the new variants.

How long do we have to use these prevention measures? Will we ever be able to stop worrying about COVID-19?

No-one can predict how the COVID-19 virus is going to affect our lives in the coming years. As the vaccination programme continues and more people are vaccinated, we are resuming more and more of the things we are used to doing in our lives. Booster vaccines are needed – just like with flu. We are probably likely to see some of the prevention measures with us over the next few years.

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Introduction:

5 mins



What do we know about COVID-19, how it spreads and what actions we can take to limit its spread?

Discussion - as more and more people get vaccinated, why are we still asked to wash hands, keep our distance and wear face masks?

Main Activity:

20 mins



Watch the COVID-19 Warrior introduction video.

Talk through PowerPoint slides 4-11 to discuss the different actions we can take to stop the spread of the virus. Can children list all 7 actions?

Choose a version of the Swiss Cheese Model you are going to make - see examples in PowerPoint. Make as a class or in groups of 7 children, so each child can decorate/label a card "cheese slice" with one action.

Adult to cut holes in the bottle if making a plastic bottle version and insert cheese slices. Test what happens with the rice/beads if just one slice is inserted, two slices, etc. Insert all 7 slices and see if the rice gets stuck between the slices.

If making a **straw/pompom version**, children can name all the actions as they insert the straws. They can insert one or more straws per action. Children can play this as kerplunk style game – remove some straws and watch the pompoms fall in – to help with understanding why we need to take a few actions together.

Plenary:

5 mins



- Can you explain how doing a few of these actions together can help stop the COVID-19 virus spreading.



Possible Extension Activities:

- Make a Swiss Cheese model poster, draw 7 cheese slices with actions written on them – you can draw pictures of the actions too.