

Activity 1.1.2 Student Resource Sheet Outbreak Investigation Day 1

The university infirmary is flooded with students seeking medical treatment. The following information was collected from each student upon examination.

Sue

An 18 year-old biology major who plays on the college soccer team, Sue reports a headache that never seems to go away and extreme lethargy. She admits that she has not been getting much sleep lately. Between soccer games and studying for tests, she has been living on energy drinks and coffee. She has been known to pull “all-nighters” to get her work done. She spent last weekend visiting a friend at another university. This certainly did not help her catch up on her sleep. When she arrives, her temperature is 100.6°F.

Jill

Jill, Sue’s roommate and teammate on the soccer team, feels extremely run down. She played the entire game the last two afternoons and her whole body feels tight. She has been trying to stretch and has even completed a session with the trainer at the athletic center, but she still feels sore. She makes sure to drink water before, during, and after all practices and games, and she stays away from highly caffeinated beverages. Jill is also running a slight fever, 99.7°F, but she says her body temperature is always a bit high. Even though she is trying to quit, Jill reports smoking an occasional cigarette when she is out at parties.

Anthony

Anthony has a dry cough that just will not go away. He has been more tired than normal, his muscles ache, and his sinuses have really been bothering him. His temperature has remained at about 100°F the past few days. His friend Maria gave him some over-the-counter cold medicine, and while it seems to have relieved some of the pressure on his sinuses, he still does not feel well. Anthony is a reporter for the school paper. He spends a good deal of time running back and forth across campus trying to cover multiple games at one time. He has probably found every shortcut through the woods on campus.

Wanda

Wanda has had a fever for the past few days and she just noticed that the glands in her neck are swollen. This morning, she woke up to a sore throat so she decided to get herself checked out by a doctor. Her boyfriend, Ray, also has the same symptoms, but he hates doctors and says he will just take Tylenol and ride it out. Wanda has not seen Ray as much as she would like lately. She is pledging the same sorority as Jill. They have had long meetings every night for the past two weeks and have attended many concerts and parties on campus.

Maggie

Maggie's throat has been scratchy the past few days. She has been keeping an eye on it as she is a singer in a popular campus band. She has been drinking tea and gargling with salt water, but this morning she woke up feeling like her throat was on fire. Her head feels heavy and she can not seem to regulate her temperature. One minute she is hot and the next she is cold. Maggie lives on the same floor as Sue and Jill. They see each other at dorm functions all the time and have chemistry class together, but they each have their own circle of friends.

Maria

Maria has been feeling run down for the past few days. She hates doctors so she has put this off as long as possible. But this morning, she could barely get out of bed and her forehead feels like it is on fire. When she arrives at the infirmary, her fever is almost 103°F. Maria lives down the hall from Jill and Sue. Others in the dorm joke that Maria should just move in; she is always over at their room and she is constantly eating their food. Jill says she can not even put down her glass for a second because Maria will drink from it.

Arnie

Arnie has been coughing and dealing with a runny nose all week. He has made sure to put on his jacket, hat and gloves when he goes outside, and to increase his vitamins, but he just seems to get worse. Last night, he could not stop coughing when he was talking to his girlfriend on the phone. He did not think he had a fever, but when he arrives at the infirmary, he learns that his temperature is 100.5°F. Arnie is studying photography and loves to take black and white shots of athletic competition. A few of his pictures have been featured in the school paper. Anthony, a guy who lives on his floor, has been helping him pick which shots to submit.