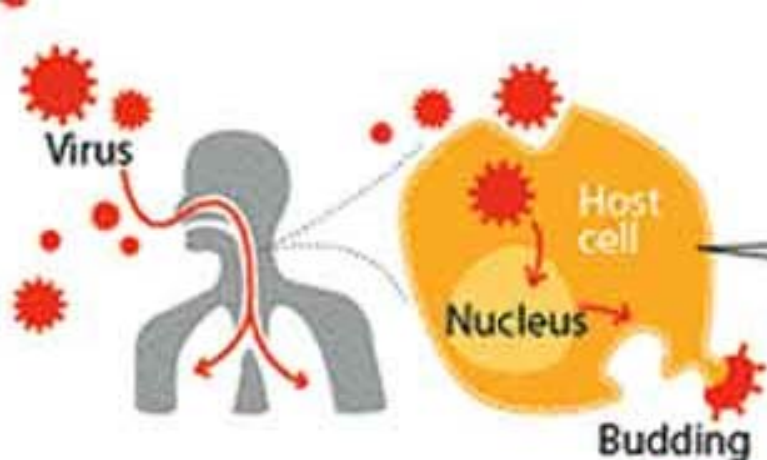


## How the H1N1 Virus Works

H1N1 is an entirely new virus, but it still works the way past flus have—by invading the body cell by cell.

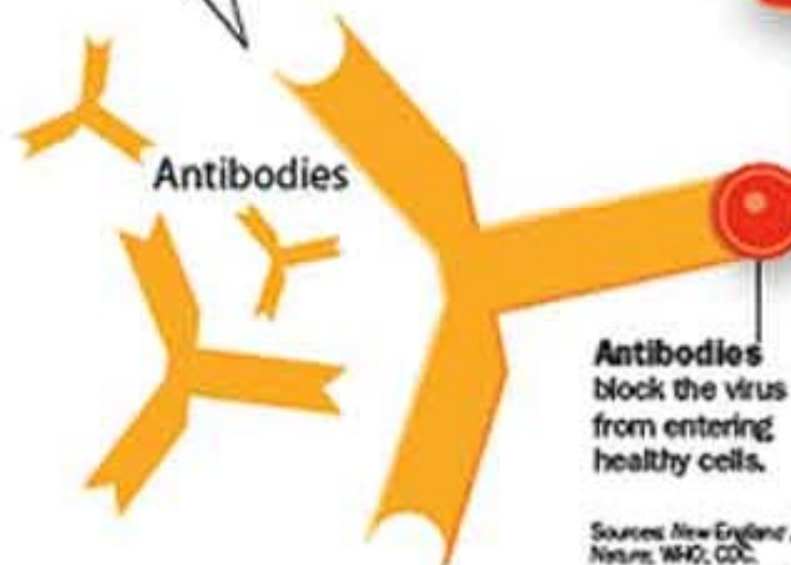


### 1 A VIRUS INVADES THE BODY

The flu virus usually enters the body through the respiratory tract. It then invades cells, using them to make more copies of itself. The cell releases the new viruses to infect more cells.

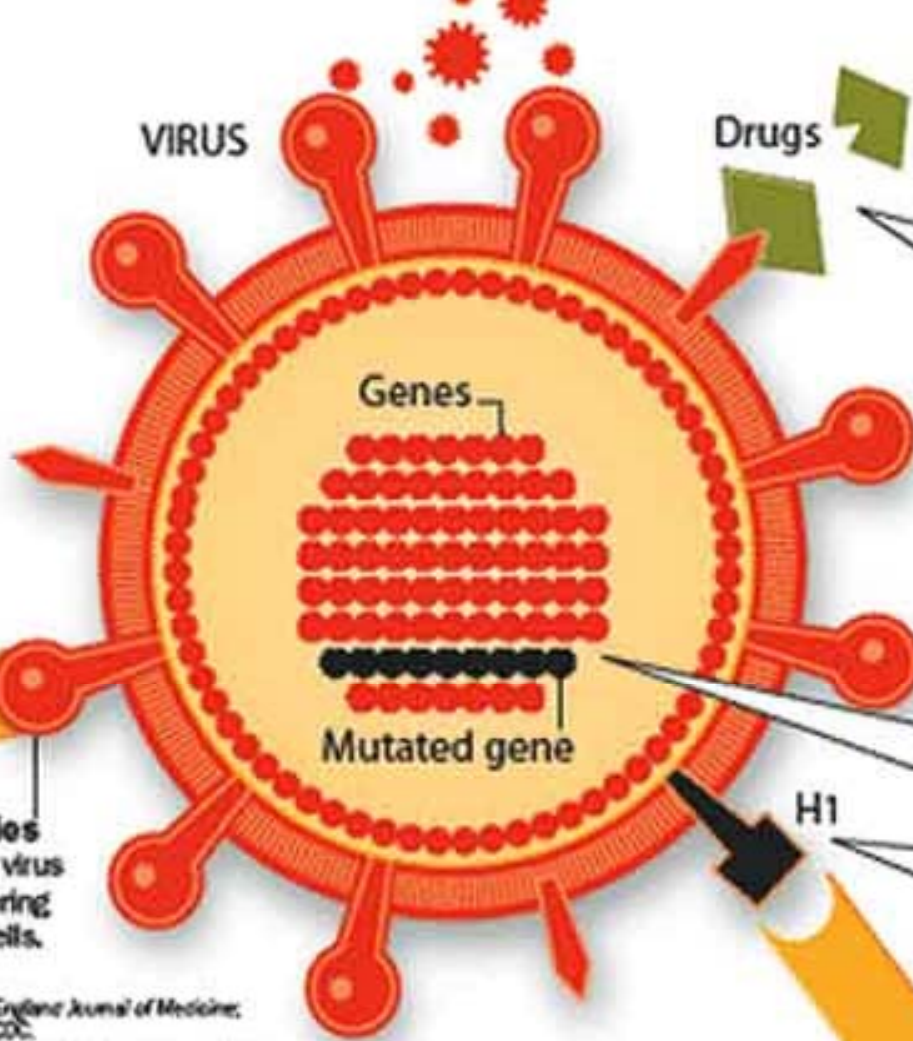
### 2 THE BODY FIGHTS BACK

The immune system has several layers of defense, including killer T cells, which attack cells overcome by viruses. Eventually, new antibodies are created that can neutralize viruses before they infect cells.



### 3 DRUGS CAN BE USED

There is no cure for viral infections, but antiviral drugs can lessen the severity and length of flu. Tamiflu stops the flu virus from reproducing inside infected cells.



### 4 THE VIRUS CAN MUTATE

When reproducing, viruses can make mistakes in their genetic material. Mutation can create new viruses that the immune system can't recognize.