

Updated How Diseases Spread Tutorial Lab

Welcome to the updated SimBio How Diseases Spread Tutorial Lab.

We made a number of modifications based on extensive beta feedback from students and professors.

WHAT WE CHANGED

- We added a narrated animation to introduce SIR models and how they work.
- We updated discussions of COVID-19 to reflect new information and data from the first year of the pandemic.
- We added a page that provides students with a clearer overview of how vaccines work.
- We added an extension on new technologies that helped drive the creation of COVID-19 vaccines.
- We added a “playground” section that students can use to explore some of their own hypotheses about how diseases spread. Instructors can use the playground for customized inquiry-driven exercises within their classes.
- We added a table summarizing all diseases mentioned in module.
- We fixed a few bugs in the interactive simulations.
- We edited text to emphasize key concepts and reduce unnecessary verbiage.
- We revised graded questions based on student performance during the beta period.
- We added different versions of some graded questions, for cheating deterrence.
- We revised the color scheme for some of our simulations to improve accessibility for colorblind users.
- We created a Poll-and-Discuss slide stack as a supplemental material for instructors, which will be available through the SimUText System’s Instructor Portal starting August 2021.

WHAT WE DID NOT CHANGE

- The majority of beta instructors reported that the module’s structure, length, and level of difficulty was appropriate for their classes; therefore, we made no major changes.
- Overwhelmingly, both instructors and students reported that the module’s interactive simulations, dynamic exercises, and questions with feedback enable students to develop a deep understanding of the material. Therefore, we retained these successful task sequences and instructional tools in the final version of the tutorial.