For better or for worse, viruses have always been relevant in our lives. Our understanding of them influences the decisions we make about our health, and can greatly impact our well-being.

The *World of Viruses* (WoV) project aims to promote public awareness of virology through innovative multimedia. It brings together virologists, radio producers, cognitive scientists, writers, artists, and multimedia developers, to create a suite of informal learning materials for teenagers and public radio listeners.

Free interactive mobile and iPad apps use stories as gateways to media-rich learning experiences — experiences that examine our relationship with viruses, and that engage the public with some of the big questions in contemporary virology research. Learn more at:

[www.worldofviruses.unl.edu](http://www.worldofviruses.unl.edu)

![Image of Emiliania huxleyi, a marine virus](https://printonline.fedex.com/nextgen/"

*Emiliania huxleyi* (ocean virus)

Charles Wood
Nebraska Center for Virology

"We want (people) to learn the basics and to challenge them to change some of their concepts. Some people don’t believe in evolution and we use viruses as an example for this; if we can challenge some dogma, then that’s a good thing."

Moira Rankin
President of Soundprint Media Center, Inc.

HPV & Men produced by Sarah McCammon

Human papillomavirus, or HPV, is the cause of most cervical cancer in women. Now, new vaccines are targeting men. Sarah McCammon explains how easily healthy men can pass the virus to their sexual partners, and why vaccinating young people of both genders could help reduce the spread of the virus.

Flu Pandemic produced by Lakshmi Singh

If an animal on a farm gets sick but doesn’t die, is it a company in the U.S. required to report it to federal authorities? Apparently, no. Lakshmi Singh looks into what scientists and researchers are doing to track the animal/human interface of viruses.

The Shy Virus produced by Jean Sneadeger

From a tiny wart on the hand to invasive cancer, HPV is a major health threat worldwide, yet mostly harmless. The virus can “hide” for years from a person’s immune system then awaken and create deadly disease. This is the story of a puzzling, paradoxical virus.

The Bucket produced by Judith Kampfner

Every teaspoonful of water contains 100 million viruses, and without them the ocean couldn’t function. Some are even used to make products from anti-aging creams to anti-cancer drugs. Travel from the coast of Plymouth in England to Santa Monica to meet with some of the intrepid pioneers on the trail of these new natural marvels.

**Learn**

*A Planet of Viruses* essays by Carl Zimmer

The University of Chicago Press

New York Times and Discover Magazine science essayist, Carl Zimmer, explores how viruses regulate the biosphere, how they helped give rise to the first life-forms, how viruses are producing new diseases, how we can harness viruses for our own ends, and how viruses will continue to control our fate for years to come.

"It’s a fast-moving field, so there is lots to talk about. I hope that people develop a fascination with viruses, rather than just a fear."

![Image of HPV, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and HPV](https://printonline.fedex.com/nextgen/"

*HPV, HIV, & H,NIU*


WoV explores the potential of mobile and iPad apps to deliver research-based, media-rich content. Read a comic series on history’s most intriguing pandemics and notable cases; play short serious games; explore interactive scientific illustrations; read Zimmer’s essays; and listen to Soundprint’s documentaries; all embedded in stories that roll scientific and historical facts with fantasy and graphic narrative.

![Image of Judy Diamond](https://printonline.fedex.com/nextgen/"

Judy Diamond
Project Director

"We’re trying to take advantage of what makes a comic interesting: Stories within stories — changes of perspective in time and space. You can go from outer space to a virus in two frames."