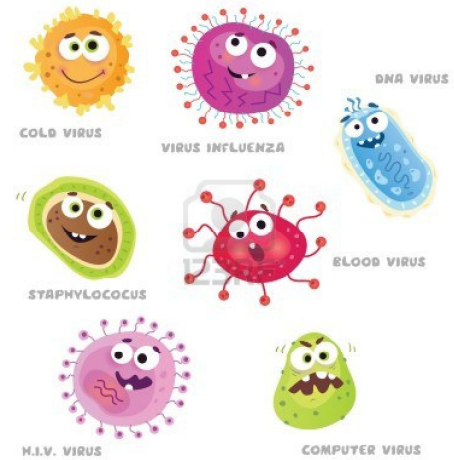


Virus: Alive or Not?

- Viruses reproduce by hijacking an organism's cells.
 - The virus itself does not replicate. Your cell is replicating for it.
- Viruses require energy, which they steal from living cells.
 - In order to reproduce it needs energy; however, because it does not replicate itself the cell uses its energy.
- Viruses contain heredity information (DNA/RNA) and this can change over time.
- Viruses are at the mercy of their environment.
 - Viruses can't stabilize their internal environment. If it is cold out the virus gets cold.
 - They virus can't adapt to their environment if the environment changes; however, the virus species can evolve for that environment.



Knowing all this what is YOUR conclusion about whether or not a virus is alive?