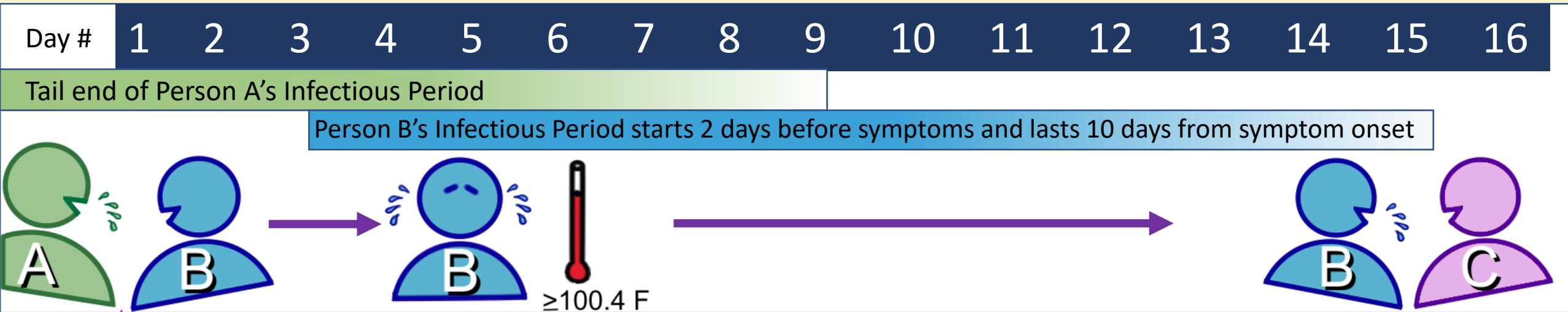


How COVID-19 Spreads



Exposure of Person B to Person A

First day of Symptoms for Person B

COVID-19 symptoms may include:

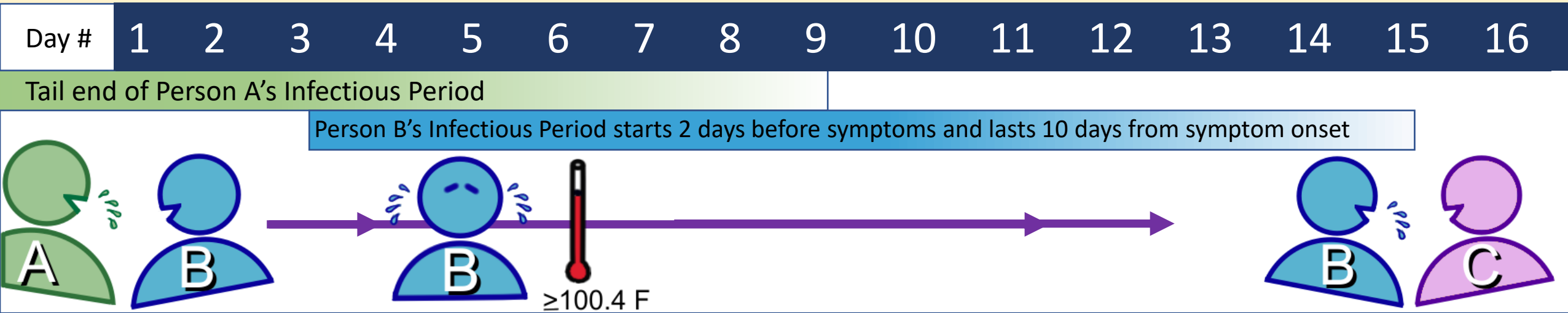
- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches

The way viruses spread from person to person follows many of the rules that wildflowers and weeds use to spread across a lawn or empty lot.

- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

How Weeds and Wildflowers Spread

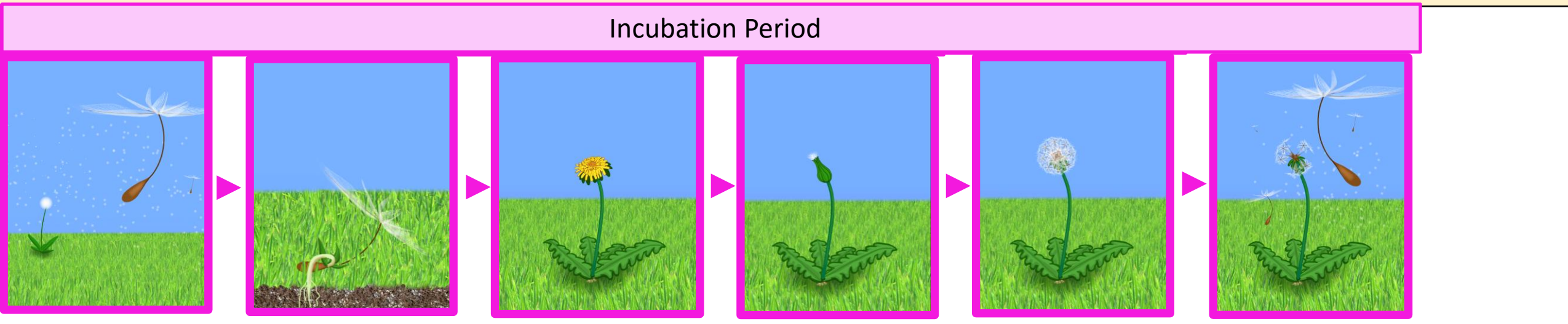
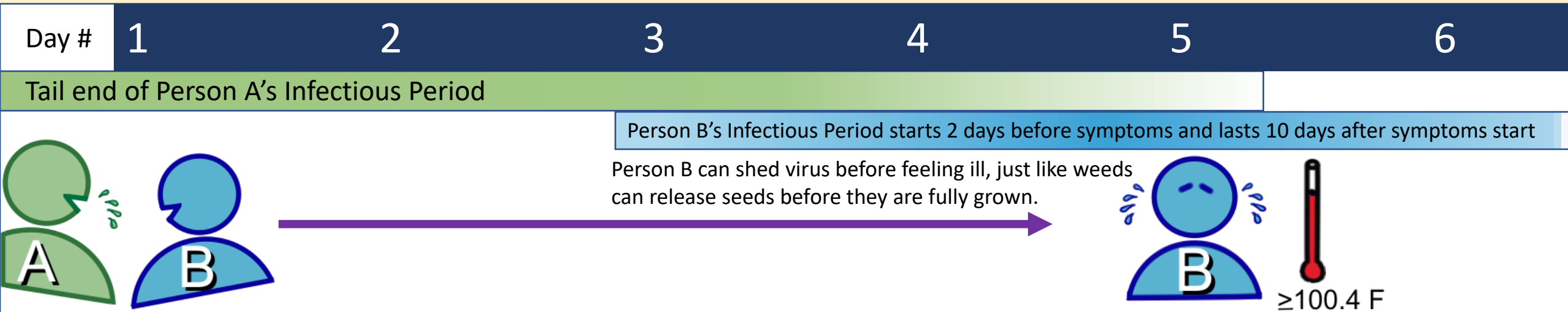
How COVID-19 Spreads



Most people are familiar with weeds spreading across a lawn or empty lot. Weeds spread much more slowly than the COVID-19 virus. However, because viruses and weeds follow many of the same rules as they spread, comparing the two processes may help us understand how, why and when masks work to keep viruses from spreading.

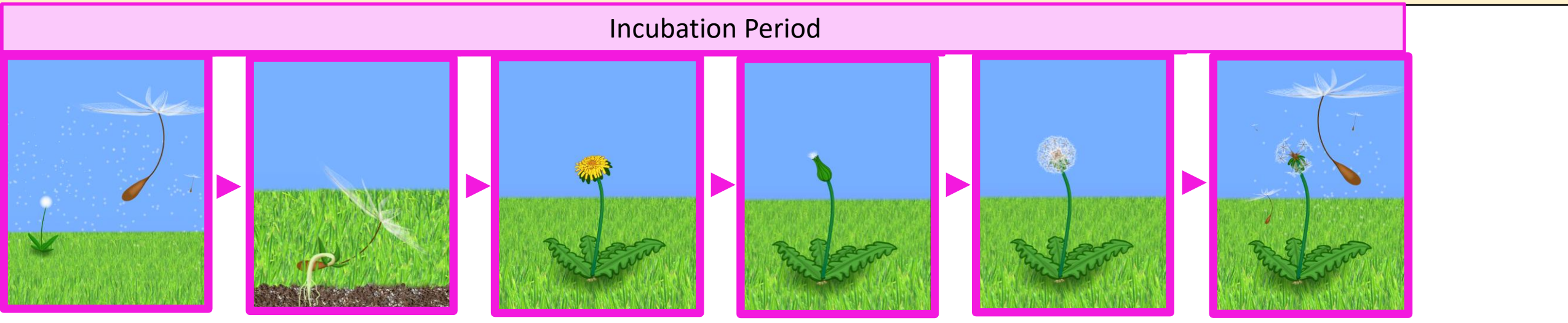
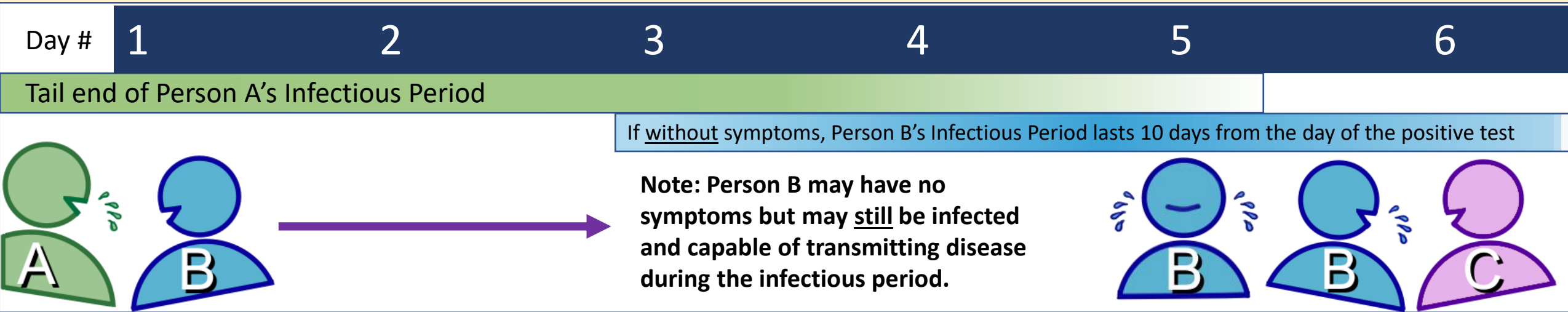
How Weeds and Wildflowers Spread

How COVID-19 Spreads



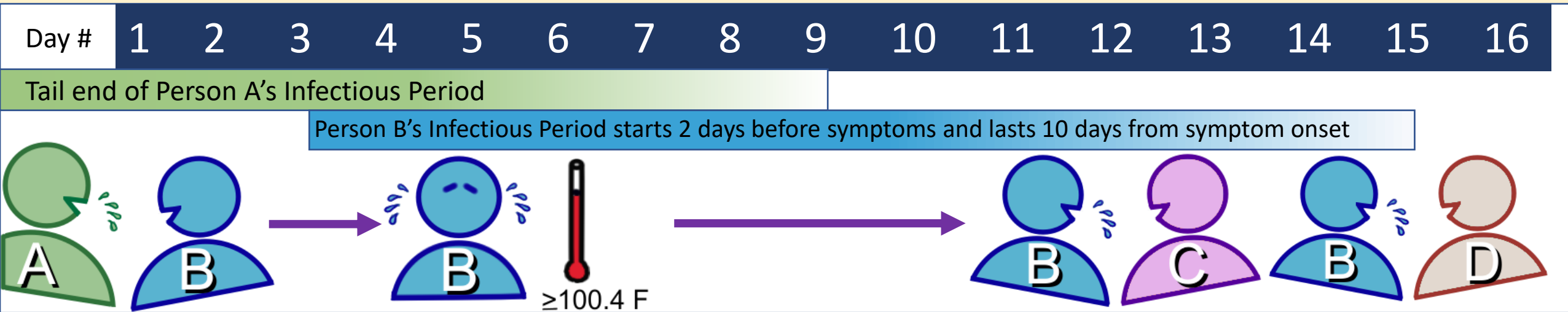
How Weeds and Wildflowers Spread

How COVID-19 Spreads



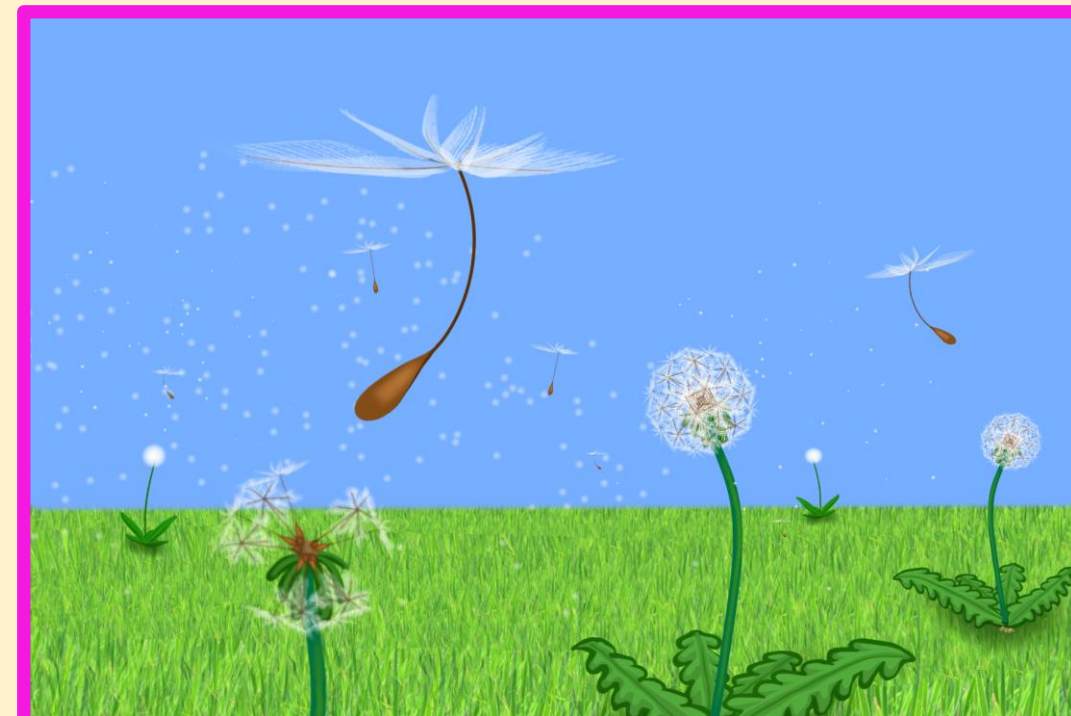
How Weeds and Wildflowers Spread

How COVID-19 Spreads

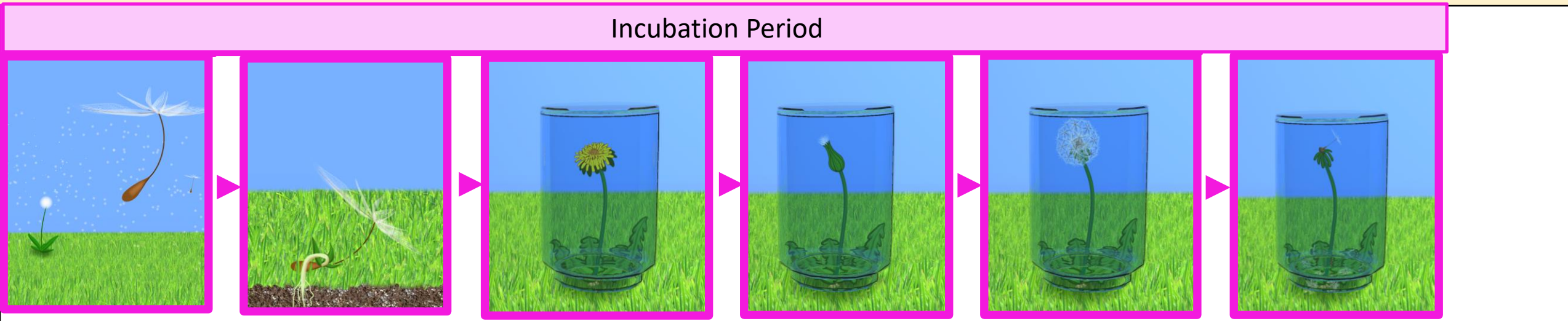
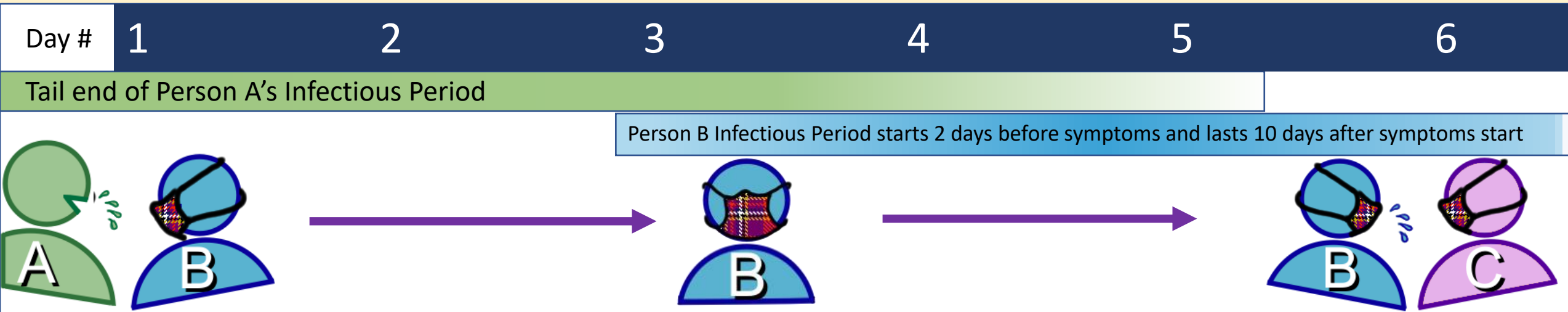


If each weed makes enough seeds to grow more than **one** new weed, the weeds will spread. If one person infected with a virus infects more than **one** other person, the virus will spread. We call this number the “Reproduction Number.” If this number is more than **one**, the virus will spread just like the weeds.

How Weeds and Wildflowers Spread

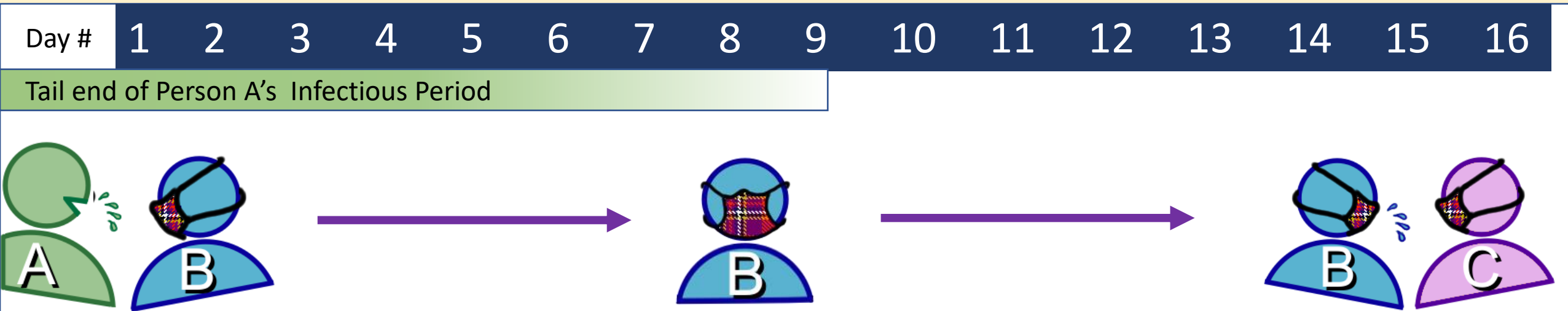


How to keep COVID-19 from spreading: Wearing a mask is part of the strategy

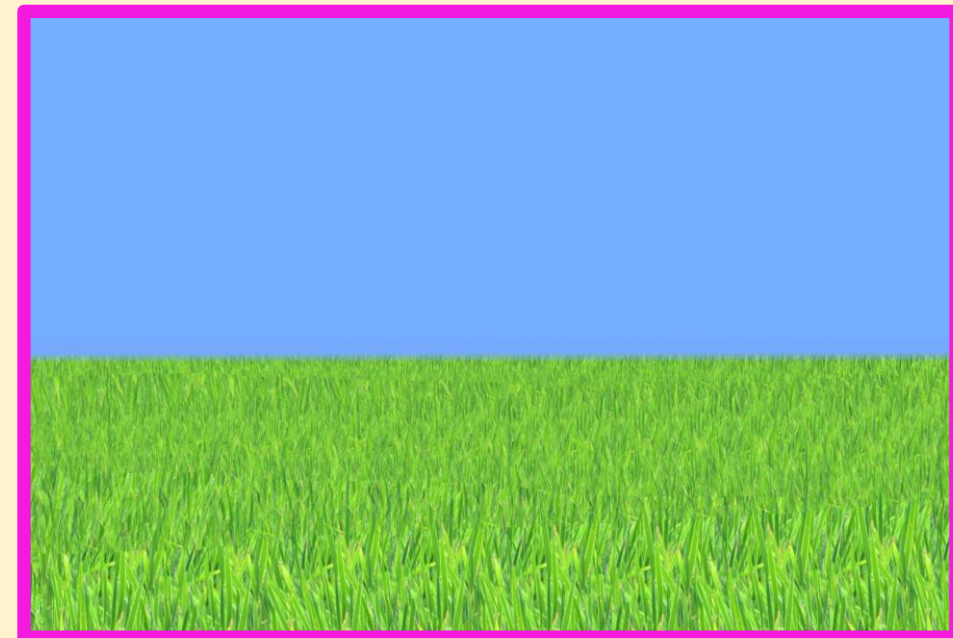


How to keep Weeds from spreading using the same strategy

How to keep COVID-19 from spreading: Wearing a mask is part of the strategy



Person B is not likely to be infected because she wore a mask when she was with Person A. However, even if Person B did become infected, she does not transmit infection to Person C because she wears a mask. A mask – used at all times with or without symptoms – prevents viruses from spreading just like the jar prevented seeds from spreading the weeds.



How to keep Weeds from spreading using the same strategy