

Targeting manganese fights the flu

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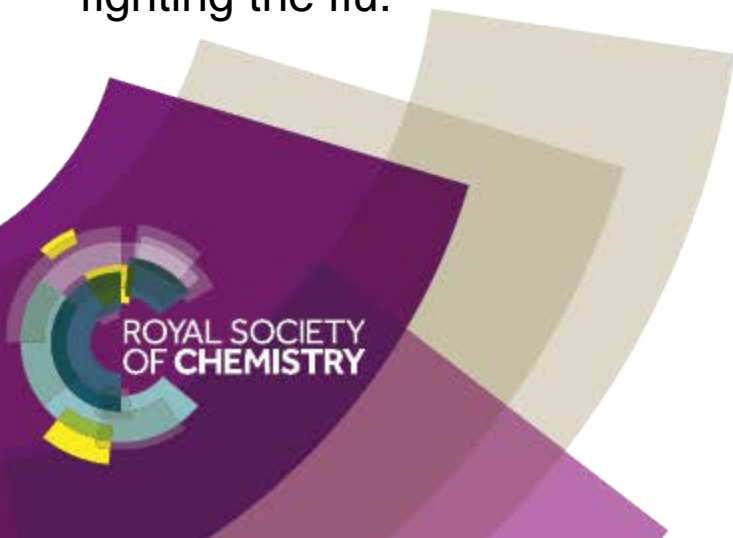
When they looked at the crystal structure of this compound, they realised they could change it slightly so that it binds to both available manganese atoms. This made it 1000 times more effective at fighting the flu.



Chest X-ray of a patient with H1N1 'swine flu'. It can lead to lung inflammation, which is shown by the patches on the lungs. © J Radiol / [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

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1. State three things your periodic table tells you about manganese. What three other things about manganese do you think should be in the periodic table, and why?
2. A flu outbreak in 1918 killed up to 5% of the world's population. Do you think we are more or less at risk of major flu outbreaks today? Why?
3. If viruses are alive, and killing things is wrong, why is it okay for us to kill viruses?