

AMA Manual of Style

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Virus Nomenclature

Harriet S. Meyer

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Viruses evolve rapidly.... [A]denovirus, for example, may produce 250 000 DNA molecules in an infected cell.... Leslie Collier and John Oxford(p12) Taxonomy lies at the uneasy interface between biology and logic. L. Andrew Ball(p3) If you wanted to call one of your children home for dinner would you go into the street and shout “Homo sapiens”? Michael A. Drebot, Eric Henchal, Brian Hjelle, et al(p2468) Most medical articles describe concrete viral entities and, therefore, use the common (vernacular, informal) names of viruses (eg, cytomegalo-virus, Hantaan virus, orthopoxviruses). To indicate taxonomic groups, formal virus names are used (eg, Human herpesvirus 5, Hantaan virus, the genus