CONCEPT: INTRODUCTION TO VIRUSES

General Structure of Viruses

- *Recall:* **Viruses** are *obligate intracellular parasite* of DNA or RNA packed into a protein coat (sometimes a lipid envelope).
  - □ _____**:** the *protein coat* that protects nucleic acids from environmental toxins & enzymes.
  - □ **Nucleocapsid:** combination of the _____ acids & the capsid.
  - □ **Spikes:** surface proteins that allow viruses to _____ a specific host cell receptor to initiate infection.
- **Virions:** a *complete* virus particle released from the host cell into the _____ *space* (outside cell).

