Fold each printed sheet in half lengthwise. The left side of the document will list the term and the right side will list the definition. Tape or staple the open edges of your flashcards. Cut out your flashcards on the solid lines indicated and fold them on the dotted lines.

Module 1
Section A: Factors Influencing Likelihood of Disease Presence

Term
Immunocompromised person

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A person who has one or more defects in the body's normal defense mechanisms that predispose him or her to infections, often life-threatening, that would otherwise not occur.

Module 1
Section A: Factors Influencing Likelihood of Disease Presence

Term
Opportunistic organisms

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Organisms that tend to become pathogenic only when an individual has some level of immunosuppression.

Module 1
Section A: Factors Influencing Likelihood of Disease Presence

Term
True pathogens

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Pathogens able to cause infection and disease.

Module 1
Section B: Local and Global Health Factors

Term
Public health

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private communities, and individuals. (CMS)

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Aerobic bacteria

Bacteria that have an absolute requirement for oxygen; without it, they do not grow.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Bacteria

Free-living, single-celled organisms that multiply through chromosomal replication and cellular division.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Biofilms

Attached, architecturally defined, three-dimensional environments that may contain either single or multiple species of microorganisms.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Capsule

An organized glycocalyx that is firmly attached to the cell wall.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Endospores

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Cell structures composed of nuclear material and protein that enable bacteria to survive extreme conditions.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Endotoxins

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Surface components (complexes of bacterial proteins, lipids, and polysaccharides remaining firmly in the bacteria) of Gram-negative bacteria.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Enteric bacteria

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Bacteria that typically are found in the gastrointestinal tract.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Exotoxins

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Toxins that are secreted by bacteria, mainly those that are Gram-positive.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Facultative anaerobes

Bacteria that can use oxygen if it is present but can grow without it.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Fungus

A term that refers generically to all members of the kingdom fungi.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Glycocalyx

Chemical substances that surround cells.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Gram-negative bacteria

Bacteria in which the cell walls contain only one (or very few) layers of peptidoglycan.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Gram-positive bacteria

Bacteria in which the cell wall consists of many layers of peptidoglycan, forming a thick rigid structure.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Microaerophilic bacteria

Bacteria that require 2 to 10% of the normal atmospheric concentration (21%); may also require increased carbon dioxide concentrations.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Molds

Usually reproduce by elongation and fragmentation of their hyphae (or pseudohyphae), which are tube-like projections; they produce fluffy, cottony, wooly, or powdery colonies.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Mycosis

Infections or diseases caused by fungi.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Non-enteric bacteria

Bacteria that typically are found outside the gastrointestinal tract; are frequently opportunistic and found in the environment (e.g., soil and water).

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Obligate anaerobes

Bacteria that grow only in the complete or nearly complete absence of oxygen and are inhibited or killed by oxygen.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Parasite

An organism that lives on or within another organism and obtains an advantage at the expense of the host.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Prions

Infectious particles of abnormally folded proteins that do not contain DNA or RNA.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Slime layer

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An unorganized glycocalyx that is loosely attached to the cell wall.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Virions

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Intact viral particles made up of nucleic acid (either RNA or DNA), a protein coat (capsid), and possibly an envelope composed of viral proteins and host cell lipids.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Virulence

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The measure of a microbe's ability to invade and create disease in a host, determined by characteristics that relate to the favored site of invasion, disease induction, and avoidance of host resistance.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Viruses

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Obligate intracellular parasites that require living host cells to grow and reproduce and are dependent on the cells' synthetic and metabolic machinery.

Module 1
Section C: Detecting, Identifying, and Responding to Disease

Term
Yeasts

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Unicellular, round to oval organisms ranging in size from 2 to 60 millimeters.

Module 1
Section D: Colonization/Infection and Immune System Responses

Term
Antigen

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Any substance identified by the human immune system as “other” or “foreign," usually taking the form of a molecule originating from a bacterium or other invader.

Module 1
Section D: Colonization/Infection and Immune System Responses

Term
Colonization

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The presence of microorganisms in or on a host with growth and multiplication but without causing any symptoms or disease.

Module 1
Section D: Colonization/Infection and Immune System Responses

Term
Colonization pressure

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

The proportion of other patients or residents colonized within a defined population or area.

Module 1
Section D: Colonization/Infection and Immune System Responses

Term
Contamination

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

The presence of an infectious agent on a body surface or inanimate object.

Module 1
Section D: Colonization/Infection and Immune System Responses

Term
Extrinsic contamination

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Contamination that occurs subsequent to manufacturing, during preparation, storage, or administration within the healthcare facility.

Module 1
Section D: Colonization/Infection and Immune System Responses

Term
Incubation period

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

The period of time from exposure to some infectious source to the development of signs and symptoms.

Module 1
Section D: Colonization/Infection and Immune System Responses

Term
Infection

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

The entry into and multiplication of an infectious agent in the tissues of the host and tissue damage resulting in apparent or unapparent changes in the host.

Module 1
Section D: Colonization/Infection and Immune System Responses

Term
Intrinsic contamination

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Contamination that occurs during the manufacturing process or transport to the healthcare facility.

Module 1
Section D: Colonization/Infection and Immune System Responses

Term
Latent period

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The time from exposure to the beginning of the infectious period.

Module 1
Section D: Colonization/Infection and Immune System Responses

Term
Normal flora

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Microbes that normally live in and on the body without causing infection or disease to the host.

Module 1
Section D: Colonization/Infection and Immune System Responses

Term
Pseudo-outbreaks

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Increases in positive cultures of the same organism (clusters) that occur with no evidence of disease.

Module 1
Section D: Colonization/Infection and Immune System Responses

Term
Resident flora

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Normal flora that are always present on the skin and throughout the body, including the body's colonizing bacteria.

Module 1
Section D: Colonization/Infection and Immune System Responses

Term
Transient flora

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Normal flora that colonize the skin and mucosa temporarily, without invading tissues.

Module 1
Section E: Common Infections and Their Symptoms

Term
Bacteriuria

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

The presence of bacteria in the urine.

Module 1
Section E: Common Infections and Their Symptoms

Term
Multiple-drug-resistant organisms (MDROs)

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Organisms that develop resistance to multiple antimicrobials, especially those that are traditionally used for treatment.

Module 1
Section I: Clinical Testing

Term
Antibiogram

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

A report that summarizes typical patterns of susceptibility to antibiotics by specific species of bacteria.

Module 1
Section I: Clinical Testing

Term
Culture

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

A laboratory technique used to grow (cultivate) bacteria and yeast.

Module 1
Section I: Clinical Testing

Term
Susceptibility

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Describes whether an identified organism is able to be treated successfully using a given antimicrobial.

Module 1
Section J: Antimicrobial Stewardship

Term
Antibiotic

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

A type of antimicrobial that is synthesized by a living microorganism, usually a fungus.

Module 1
Section J: Antimicrobial Stewardship

Term
Antimicrobial

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

A substance, such as an antibiotic, that kills or stops the growth of microbes, including bacteria, fungi, or viruses; grouped according to the microbes they act against (antibiotics, antifungals, and antivirals). (CDC)

Module 1
Section J: Antimicrobial Stewardship

Term
Antimicrobial stewardship

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Practices dedicated to improving and optimizing antimicrobial selection, dosage, and duration while minimizing resident harm.

Module 1
Section J: Antimicrobial Stewardship

Term
Antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASPs)

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Programs that optimize the selection, dosage, and duration of antimicrobial treatment to produce the best clinical outcome with minimal toxicity to the resident.

Module 1
Section J: Antimicrobial Stewardship

Term
Empiric therapy

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

Involves administering an antimicrobial to a patient before definitive information about a causative pathogen is available, typically because the results of the culture are pending.

Module 1
Section J: Antimicrobial Stewardship

Term
Half life

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

The time it takes for the body to metabolize half of a drug.

Module 1
Section J: Antimicrobial Stewardship

Term
Intermediate-susceptible

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

In antimicrobial susceptibility testing, level at which a drug is likely to be effective only at body sites where it is physiologically concentrated or at other body sites if higher-than-usual dosing regimens are used.

Module 1
Section J: Antimicrobial Stewardship

Term
Minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC)

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

The lowest concentration of a drug that can inhibit microbial growth in vitro (in the lab).

Module 1
Section J: Antimicrobial Stewardship

Term
Resistant

APIC CIC Learning System © 2025

In antimicrobial susceptibility testing, level at which a drug is unlikely to be effective for the treatment of infection unless predictably toxic dosages are used.

Module 1 *Section J: Antimicrobial Stewardship* **Term** Susceptible APIC CIC Learning System © 2025	In antimicrobial susceptibility testing, level at which a drug is likely to be effective for the treatment of infection using a standard dosage.
Module 1 *Section K: Diagnostic Stewardship and Communication* **Term** Diagnostic stewardship APIC CIC Learning System © 2025	Coordinated guidance and interventions to improve appropriate use of microbiological diagnostics to guide therapeutic decisions; should promote appropriate, timely diagnostic testing, including specimen collection, and pathogen identification and accurate, timely reporting of results to guide patient treatment. (WHO)