Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Antigen

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Antimicrobial

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Antimicrobial resistance

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Colonization

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Colonization pressure

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Incubation period

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Infection

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Infectivity

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)

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.

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

The ability of microorganisms to grow when treated by a drug that was previously an effective antimicrobial agent.

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

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

The ability of an infectious agent to invade, survive in, and multiply in a host; can be calculated as the number of those infected divided by the number of those exposed.

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 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Latent period

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Malnutrition

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Multiple-drug-resistant organisms (MDROs)

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Overnutrition

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Pathogenicity

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Undernutrition

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Urinary tract infection (UTI)

Module 2
Section A: Infection and Aging

Term
Virulence

An imbalance of nutrients or stores compared to physiological requirements.

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

Malnutrition that leads to individuals being overweight or obese.

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

Malnutrition due to chronic inadequate intake of energy and protein.

The ability of an infectious agent to cause clinically apparent disease in infected hosts; calculated as the number of those diseased divided by the number of those infected.

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.

A bacterial or fungal infection of the urinary tract.

Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Bacteria

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Biofilms

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Capsule

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Section B: Microbiology

Term
Endospores

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Section B: Microbiology

Term
Endotoxins

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Exotoxins

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Fungus

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Glycocalyx

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chemical substances that surround cells.

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

Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Gram-negative bacteria

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Gram-positive bacteria

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Section B: Microbiology

Term
Molds

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Mycosis

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Normal flora

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Parasite

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Prions

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Resident flora

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

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

Infections or diseases caused by fungi.

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

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

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

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

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

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Section B: Microbiology

Term
Slime layer

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Transient flora

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Virions

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Virulence

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Viruses

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Module 2
Section B: Microbiology

Term
Yeasts

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Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Agent

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Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Airborne spread

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

An efficient mode of transmission that may involve varying distances between the source and the host.

A component of the epidemiological triangle; may be a bacteria, virus, fungus, protozoan, helminth, or prion.

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Antibiogram

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Association

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Carrier

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Causative agent

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Chronic carriers

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Cluster

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Community-acquired infection

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Convalescent carriers

The relationship between a risk factor and an outcome, such as a disease.

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

A biological, physical, or chemical entity capable of causing disease.

A person who shows no recognizable signs or symptoms of a disease but is capable of spreading the disease to others.

A group of persons with a given disease occurring in the same space and time but not epidemiologically linked. If an epidemiological link is made, may become an outbreak.

Persons who may continue to have organisms present for very long periods of time.

Those who have recovered from a disease but still have organisms present that can be transmitted.

An infection that is present on admission to a healthcare facility and has no association with a recent hospitalization.

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Culture

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Direct contact

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Droplet transmission

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Endemic

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Environment

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Epidemic

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Epidemiology

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
External vector-borne transmission

A mode of transmission that features person-to-person spread with actual physical contact occurring between a source and a susceptible host.

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

The usual incidence of a given disease within a geographical area during a specified time period.

A mode of transmission that occurs when the infectious agent spends only a brief period passing through the air and can be inhaled at that time.

An excess over the expected incidence of disease within a given geographical area during a specified time period.

A component of the epidemiological triangle; consists of all external factors associated with the host.

The mechanical transfer of microorganisms by a vector, such as a fly on food.

The study of the distribution and determinants of disease and other conditions in human populations.

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Fomite

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Healthcare-associated infection (HAI)

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Herd immunity

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Host

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Incidence

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Indirect contact

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Infection—apparent, clinical, or symptomatic

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Infection—unapparent, asymptomatic, or subclinical

An infection that is not present at the time of admission to a healthcare facility but is temporally associated with admission to or a procedure performed in the facility; may also be related to a recent hospitalization.

An inanimate object on which organisms may exist for some period of time, for example, a contaminated piece of medical equipment.

A component of the epidemiological triangle; refers to a human or other animal.

The resistance of a group to invasion and spread of an infectious agent, based on the immunity of a high proportion of individual members of the group.

A mode of transmission that occurs when a patient comes in contact with a contaminated intermediate object or fomite.

The number of new cases of a given disease in a given time period.

An infection that runs a course similar to that of clinical disease but below the threshold of discernible clinical symptoms.

An infection that results in clinical signs and symptoms of a recognizable disease process.

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Intermediate-susceptible

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Intermittent carriers

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Internal vector-borne transmission

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Mode of transmission

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Outbreak

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Pandemic

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Portal of entry

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Portal of exit

Persons who periodically shed organisms.

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.

The method by which an organism reaches a susceptible host.

Involves the transfer of infectious material directly from the vector into the new host, such as occurs with mosquitoes and malaria.

An epidemic spread over a wide geographical area, across countries or continents.

Synonymous with epidemic but often preferred when dealing with the public; in local settings, a group of people with the same disease who are epidemiologically linked.

In the chain of infection, the path by which an infectious agent leaves the reservoir.

In the chain of infection, the means by which an infectious agent enters a susceptible host.

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Prevalence

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Term
Reservoir

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Resistant

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Risk

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Risk factor

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Susceptibility

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Susceptible

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Sustained carriers

A place in which an infectious agent can survive but may or may not multiply, for example, Pseudomonas in nebulizers and hepatitis B on the surface of a hemodialysis machine.

The number of existent cases of a given disease at a given time.

The probability or likelihood of an event occurring.

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.

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

A characteristic, behavior, or experience that increases the probability of developing a negative health status (e.g., disease, infection).

Persons who may continue to have organisms present for very long periods of time.

In antimicrobial susceptibility testing, level at which a drug is likely to be effective for the treatment of infection using a standard dosage.

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Vector

Module 2
Section C: General Principles of Epidemiology and Testing

Term
Zoonosis

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Active immunity

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Bivalent

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Cleaning

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Critical items

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Disinfection

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Enhanced barrier precautions (EBP)

A disease transmitted from animals to humans (e.g., cat scratch fever, psittacosis).

In biology, a biting insect, tick, or other organism responsible for transmitting a disease, pathogen, or parasite between persons, animals, or plants.

A SARS-CoV-2 vaccine consisting of two SARS-CoV-2 strains targeted to specific variants.

Arises when a person is exposed to an organism by either vaccination or direct exposure; when the immune person comes into contact with the organism in the future, the immune system will remember it and trigger an immune response.

Objects or instruments that must be free of any microorganisms, including bacterial spores, when they enter sterile tissue, bone, or the vascular system in order to not introduce microorganisms into the site that would result in an infection or a disease.

The removal of foreign material (e.g., soil, organic material) from objects; required before disinfection and sterilization can occur since foreign material interferes with the effectiveness of these processes.

Infection control interventions designed to reduce transmission of multidrug-resistant organisms in nursing homes. (CDC)

Thermal or chemical destruction of pathogenic and other types of microorganisms.

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Immunization

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Monovalent

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Noncritical items

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Passive immunity

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Polyvalent

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Quadrivalent

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Semicritical items

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Standard precautions (SP) strategies

A vaccine consisting of a single strain or type of organism.

A process by which a person becomes protected against a disease through vaccination.

Conveyed through administration of antibodies for a specific disease or administration of certain blood products; results in immediate immunity.

Medical devices and other items that come in contact with intact skin but not mucous membranes.

An influenza vaccine consisting of four influenza strains (e.g., two A virus strains, two B virus strains).

A vaccine consisting of multiple strains or types of organisms (e.g., 23-valent pneumococcal vaccine).

A series of evidence-based procedures, used for all patients in all settings, to reduce the presence of microbiological agents in a healthcare facility and to prevent cross-contamination between HCP, patients, and the environment.

Medical devices that come in contact with mucous membranes or nonintact skin; should be free of all microorganisms (i.e., mycobacteria, fungi, viruses, bacteria), although small numbers of bacterial spores may be present.

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Sterility

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Transmission-based precautions (TBP)

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Trivalent

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Vaccination

Module 2
Section D: Processes to Mitigate Transmission

Term
Vaccine

Procedures used with residents who are known or suspected to be infected or colonized with infectious agents, including certain epidemiologically important pathogens.

The state of being free from all living microorganisms.

The act of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease.

A vaccine consisting of three types or strains of a single organism (e.g., influenza vaccine) or three different organisms (e.g., diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus vaccine).

A preparation that is used to stimulate the body's immune response against diseases. (CDC)