

**Module 1**

*Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology*

**Term**  
Cluster

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**Module 1**

*Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology*

**Term**  
Community-acquired infection

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*Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology*

**Term**  
Endemic

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Epidemic

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Epidemiology

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Fomite

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Healthcare-associated infection (HAI)

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Herd immunity

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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Incidence

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Infection—apparent, clinical, or symptomatic

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Infection—unapparent, asymptomatic, or subclinical

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Outbreak

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Pandemic

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**Term**

Prevalence

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**Term**

Reservoir

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Risk

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

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

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.

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

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

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

The probability or likelihood of an event occurring.

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.

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**Term**

Risk factor

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Vector

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Zoonosis

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**Module 1**

*Section B: Chain of Infection*

**Term**

Airborne spread

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*Section B: Chain of Infection*

**Term**

Carrier

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**Module 1**

*Section B: Chain of Infection*

**Term**

Causative agent

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*Section B: Chain of Infection*

**Term**

Chronic carriers

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*Section B: Chain of Infection*

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Convalescent carriers

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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*Section B: Chain of Infection*

**Term**

Direct contact

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Droplet transmission

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**Term**

External vector-borne transmission

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*Section B: Chain of Infection*

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Indirect contact

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*Section B: Chain of Infection*

**Term**

Intermittent carriers

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Internal vector-borne transmission

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Mode of transmission

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Portal of entry

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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.

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

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

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

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

Persons who periodically shed organisms.

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

The method by which an organism reaches a susceptible host.



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*Section B: Chain of Infection*

**Term**  
Portal of exit

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**Term**  
Sustained carriers

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**Module 1**  
*Section C: Key Concepts of Surveillance*

**Term**  
Active surveillance

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*Section C: Key Concepts of Surveillance*

**Term**  
Passive surveillance

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*Section C: Key Concepts of Surveillance*

**Term**  
Surveillance

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**Module 1**  
*Section D: Basics of Surveillance Methodologies*

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Syndromic surveillance

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*Section D: Basics of Surveillance Methodologies*

**Term**  
Targeted surveillance

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*Section D: Basics of Surveillance Methodologies*

**Term**  
Total surveillance

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

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

Surveillance that relies on others (e.g., physicians, nurses, or the microbiology laboratory) who are not trained on surveillance methods or primarily responsible for surveillance activities to report healthcare-associated infections.

Surveillance that involves trained individuals (such as IPs) actively looking for healthcare-associated infections using standardized definitions and protocols.

The collection and analysis of pre-diagnostic and nonclinical disease indicators using preexisting electronic data.

A system for routine, ongoing, and systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of surveillance data to identify infections (i.e., HAI and community-acquired), infection risks, communicable disease outbreaks, and to maintain or improve resident health status.

Measures and tracks all infections at a facility, across its entire population of residents and staff; also known as "comprehensive" or "whole house" surveillance.

Focuses on a narrow selection of infections and pathogens; also known as "priority-directed" surveillance.