

DEFINITIONS

Pathogen Micro-organism that causes a disease.

Transmissible disease A disease caused by a pathogen that can be passed from a host to another.

Antigen Any molecule considered foreign by the immune system (usually a surface protein).

Antibodies Proteins which are produced by B-plasma lymphocytes that are targeted to their complementary antigens.

Active immunity Immunity gained when an antigen enters the body. An immune response occurs and antibodies are produced by plasma cells.

Passive immunity Immunity gained without an immune response. Antibodies are injected (artificial) or passed from the mother to the child across the placenta or in breast milk (natural).

Natural immunity Immunity gained by being infected (active) or by receiving antibodies from the mother across the placenta or in breast milk (passive).

Artificial immunity Immunity gained either by vaccination (active) or by injecting antibodies (passive).

Vaccination Giving a vaccine containing antigens for a disease, either by injection or by mouth (vaccination confers artificial active immunity).

DEFINITIONS (cont)

Auto-immune disease Diseases where a person's immune system recognize its antigens as foreign antigen and starts an immune response against it.

TWO WAYS OF INFECTION

Direct contact Direct entry of pathogens into the body (AIDS by direct contact with infected blood/athletes' foot by sharing towels).

Indirect transmission Pathogen is transmitted along a certain method (influenza).



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