

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: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Cluster

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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.

Module 1
Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Community-acquired infection

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

Module 1
Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Endemic

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

Module 1
Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Epidemic

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

Module 1
Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Epidemiology

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

Module 1
Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Fomite

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

Module 1
Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Healthcare-associated infection (HAI)

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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.

Module 1
Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Herd immunity

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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.

Module 1

Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Incidence

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

Module 1

Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Infection—apparent, clinical, or symptomatic

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

Module 1

Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Infection—unapparent, asymptomatic, or subclinical

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

Module 1

Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Outbreak

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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.

Module 1

Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Pandemic

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

Module 1

Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Prevalence

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

Module 1

Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Reservoir

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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.

Module 1

Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Risk

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The probability or likelihood of an event occurring.

Module 1
Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Risk factor

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

Module 1
Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Vector

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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.

Module 1
Section A: Epidemiology Basics and Terminology

Term
Zoonosis

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

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Airborne spread

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

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Carrier

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

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Causative agent

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

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Chronic carriers

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

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Convalescent carriers

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

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Direct contact

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

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Droplet transmission

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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.

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
External vector-borne transmission

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

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Indirect contact

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

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Intermittent carriers

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Persons who periodically shed organisms.

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Internal vector-borne transmission

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

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Mode of transmission

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The method by which an organism reaches a susceptible host.

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Portal of entry

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

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Portal of exit

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

Module 1
Section B: Chain of Infection

Term
Sustained carriers

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

Module 1
Section C: Key Concepts of Surveillance

Term
Active surveillance

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

Module 1
Section C: Key Concepts of Surveillance

Term
Passive surveillance

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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.

Module 1
Section C: Key Concepts of Surveillance

Term
Surveillance

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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.

Module 1
Section D: Basics of Surveillance Methodologies

Term
Syndromic surveillance

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

Module 1
Section D: Basics of Surveillance Methodologies

Term
Targeted surveillance

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

Module 1
Section D: Basics of Surveillance Methodologies

Term
Total surveillance

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