



Zoonoses: Terminologies

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Definitions / Terminology

- **Infection.**

Entry and development or multiplication of an infectious agent in the body of the host.

Ex. bacterial, viral, parasitic, fungal infections

- **Infestation.**

Lodgement and development of arthropodes or endoparasites on or in the body.

Ex. Ticks, mites, lice,

- **Carrier.**

Infected person or animal which harbour a specific infectious agent in absence of clinical symptoms and serves as potential source of infection for others.

- ✓ **Asymptomatic carrier** Ex. TB, HIV, Diphtheria,

- ✓ **Incubatory carrier** Ex. Common cold virus, Measles

- ✓ **Convalescent carrier** Ex. Typhoid, diarrhoea patients

■ **Disease.**

A condition of a body, organ or part in which its functions are impaired or affected.

■ **Iatrogenic (physician induced) disease.**

Any untoward consequence of a preventive, diagnostic or therapeutic procedures that cause impairment or disability resulting from professional activity of a physician or health related personnel.

■ **Communicable disease.**

A disease resulting from infection or infestation capable of being directly or indirectly transmitted to a new host or from the environment through any vehicle.

- **Contagious disease.**

A disease that is transmitted by direct contact between an infected host and a susceptible host. [Ex. Fungal infections](#)

- **Nosocomial infection.**

An infection acquired or contracted in a hospital or other health care facility. [Ex. MRSA, NDM-1 superbug](#)

- **Exotic diseases.**

Diseases that are imported to a country in which they do not otherwise occur.

- **Notifiable disease.**

Occurrence of a disease which requires immediate reporting to the higher health authority to take necessary action for preventing further spread.

- **Host.**

Animal or man which affords lodgment or penetration of an infectious agent under natural conditions.

- **Definite/Definitive host.**

Animal or man in which infectious agent attains its maturity.

- **Intermediate host.**

Host which provides a medium for larval or asexual or sexual phase of life cycle of an infectious agent.

- **Non-obligatory host.**

Animal or man which may accidentally or occasionally provide nourishment to an infectious agent.

- **Obligate host.**

Host which is essentially required for growth and multiplication of infectious agent, in absence of which it may die.

- **Epidemiology.**

Study of distribution and determinants of disease occurrence in the population.

- **Epizootic.**

Epidemic in animal population.

- **Epornithic.**

Epidemic in bird population.

- **Eradication.**

Total removal or elimination of a disease or a etiological agent from a region.

- **Exzootic.**

A disease which has been eliminated or stamped out from a country.

- **Antigenic shift :**

- Ex. Influenza A virus**

- A sudden, major change in the antigenic structure of a virus, usually the result of genetic mutation.
 - Phenotypic expression is altered
 - Results in pandemic

- **Antigenic drift :**

- Ex. Influenza A, B, C virus**

- a gradual relatively minor change in the antigenicity of a strain periodically
 - Phenotypic expression is unaltered
 - Results in epidemics
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- **Endemic.**

Constant presence of a disease or an infectious agent within a geographical area without importation from outside.

- **Sporadic.**

Incidence at intervals of single or scattered cases of a disease.

- **Epidemic.**

Occurrence of a disease in a community clearly in excess of normal expectation for that population based on past experience.

- **Pandemic.**

Diseases spreading over wide geographical area involving several species, countries and continents.

- **Prevalence.**

Total number of cases both old and new at a given time in a population.

- **Incidence.**

Frequency of occurrence of new cases of a particular disease in a population.

- **Source.**

Any living or non-living object from which an infectious agent passes to a susceptible host.

- **Reservoir.**

An animate or inanimate object on or in which an infectious agent usually lives, multiplies and survives in such a manner that it can be transmitted to susceptible host.

- **Vector.**

An invertebrate host or arthropod which transmit the infection by biting or by depositing of infective material on the skin or on food or other objects.

- **Vehicle.**

A non-living substance through which an infectious agent passes from source to the susceptible host.

- **Prevention.**

Measures to protect man or animal from a disease.

- **Control.**

Measures to reduce incidence or prevalence of disease or infection in man or animal.

- **Quarantine.**

Restraint placed upon the movement of man, animals, plants or goods which are suspected of being carrier or vehicles of infection or of having been exposed to infection.

- **Surveillance.**

Exercise of continuous scrutiny or watchfulness over the distribution and spread of infections and factors related thereto for effective control.
