

Glossary

PREVENTING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A

amebic dysentery (uh MEE bik DIS uhn TER ee) an inflammation of the intestine that is caused by an ameba

antibiotic resistance a condition in which bacteria can no longer be killed by a particular antibiotic

B

bacteria tiny, single-celled organisms, some of which can cause disease

F

fungus an organism that absorbs and uses nutrients of living or dead organisms

H

hepatitis an inflammation of the liver

I

infectious disease (in FEK shuhs di ZEEZ) any disease that is caused by an agent that has invaded the body

inflammation a reaction to injury or infection that is characterized by pain, redness, and swelling

L

lymphatic system a network of vessels that carry a clear fluid called *lymph* throughout the body

M

meningitis an inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord

P

pathogen any agent that causes disease

S

salmonellosis a bacterial infection of the digestive system that is usually spread by eating contaminated food

symptom a change that a person notices in his or her body or mind and that is caused by a disease or disorder

V

vaccine a substance that is usually prepared from killed or weakened pathogens or from genetic material and that is introduced into a body to produce immunity

virus a tiny disease-causing particle that consists of genetic material and a protein coat

W

white blood cell a blood cell whose primary job is to defend the body against disease