

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Lesson 2 – Ecology of Disease: Comparing Viruses, Bacteria, and Eukaryotes

GLOSSARY

Amensalism

An ecological interaction in which one organism is negatively affected and the other is not affected.

Bacteria

A single-celled microorganism that can reproduce independently; some, but not all, may live on other organisms. They may or may not cause disease.

Commensalism

An ecological interaction in which one organism is positively affected and the other is not affected.

Competition

An ecological interaction in which both organisms are negatively affected.

Eukaryote

A class of organisms that contain one or more cells. Cells of these organisms include membrane-bound nuclei and organelles. Animals and people are examples.

Infection

Invasion and multiplication of microorganisms in a body that may or may not cause symptoms.

Mosquito-borne pathogen

An illness or infection caused by a pathogen transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito.

Mutualism

An ecological interaction in which both organisms benefit.

Pathogen

A disease causing agent such as a bacterium or virus.

Parasitism

An ecological interaction in which one organism benefits and the other is harmed.

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Predation

An ecological interaction in which one organism benefits and the other is harmed, and often dies.

Symbiosis

Interactions between species that may be beneficial or harmful, but which are necessary to their co-existence.

Vector

A carrier of a disease-causing agent.

Virus

A microorganism that cannot reproduce without infecting a living cell. It may or may not cause disease.