

Lesson 3 – The Evolution of Disease: Viruses, Bacteria, and Immunity

GLOSSARY

Antibiotics

Medicines given to treat bacterial infections.

Antibiotic Resistance

Decreased ability to treat an infection because the bacteria previously killed by the medication have changed, so that they are no longer as susceptible.

Antigenic drift

The accumulation of small genetic changes in influenza virus.

Antigenic shift

A dramatic change in influenza virus resulting from reassortment, or recombination, of the virus' genes.

Bacteria

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

Immune system

The system of the body that protects us from infections and diseases.

Virus

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