

## Infectious Disease Terms Glossary

Term	Definition
Commensalism	An unequal relationship in which one species derives benefit without harming the other.
Endemic Disease	A native disease that exists continuously in a geographic region.
Epidemic	A sudden and simultaneous outbreak or increase in the number of cases of a disease in a community.
Eradicate/Eradication	To eliminate completely (a disease).
Host	Organisms in which smaller organisms or viruses live, feed, and reproduce
IOM (Institute of Medicine)	A branch of the National Academies with the mission to serve as adviser to the nation to improve health. The Institute provides unbiased, evidence-based, and authoritative information and advice concerning health and science policy to policy-makers, professionals, leaders in every sector of society, and the public at large.
Mortality Rate	Total number of deaths in a population attributable to a particular disease.
Nasopharyngeal	Related to the nasopharynx, which is the upper part of the pharynx (throat) behind the nose.
Non-endemic	A disease that is not native to and contained within a certain geographic region.
Pandemic	A disease afflicting an increased proportion of the population over a wide geographic area (often worldwide).
Pathogenic	The ability of microbes to cause disease.
Public Health Measure	Any number of steps taken in a community to contain, prohibit, and eliminate the spread of an infectious disease. These range from the use of vaccinations on a large scale, to chlorination of water, to the use of bed nets among many other methods.
Therapeutic Drug	Any drug taken to help cure a disease or symptoms associated with it
Vaccines	Vaccines present a pathogenic organism's signature molecules to the immune system. A vaccine stimulates the natural immune response, creating antibodies and a chemical memory of the infection without the danger of an actual infection. The chemical memory helps protect us if we are ever exposed to the pathogen in the future.
Vector	An animal that transmits infectious agents from one host to another, usually a biting or piercing arthropod like the tick, mosquito, or fly. Infectious agents can be conveyed mechanically by simple contact or biologically whereby the parasite develops in the vector.