

Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer Key: Pathogen Patrol: 6th Grade Disease Defense Quiz

Cross-contamination, viral replication, and community immunity — vital concepts for transitioning middle schoolers to identify and mitigate health risks effectively.

1. Which of the following describes a 'vector' in the context of disease transmission?

Answer: B) A living organism, like a mosquito, that carries pathogens to humans

Vectors are intermediate organisms (often insects) that transmit infectious pathogens between hosts without getting sick themselves.

2. The concept of _____ immunity occurs when a large portion of a community becomes immune to a disease, making its spread unlikely.

Answer: C) Herd

Herd immunity (or community immunity) protects vulnerable individuals because the pathogen cannot find enough susceptible hosts to spread.

3. True or False: Antibiotics are the primary treatment for viral infections like the common cold or COVID-19.

Answer: B) False

Antibiotics only kill bacteria; they have no effect on viruses. Viral infections are managed with rest, fluids, or specific antiviral medications.

4. Which practice is most effective at preventing the spread of Norovirus in a shared school cafeteria?

Answer: C) Vigorous handwashing with soap and water after using the restroom

Norovirus is highly contagious via surfaces; handwashing is the gold standard for removing these hardy particles from the skin.

5. A _____ is a weakened or inactive part of a particular organism that triggers an immune response within the body.

Answer: A) Vaccine

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Vaccines 'train' the immune system to recognize and fight specific pathogens without the person having to get sick first.

6. True or False: Non-communicable diseases, such as asthma or heart disease, cannot be caught from another person.

Answer: A) True

Non-communicable diseases are caused by genetics, environment, or lifestyle, rather than infectious agents like germs.

7. Why is it important to complete the full course of a prescribed medicine even if you feel better after two days?

Answer: B) To ensure all pathogens are eliminated and prevent drug resistance

Stopping early can leave the strongest bacteria alive, which may then multiply and develop resistance to that drug.

8. Storing raw 'phyllo' dough or vegetables below raw meat in a refrigerator is a strategy to prevent _____.

Answer: C) Cross-contamination

Cross-contamination occurs when juices from raw meat (which may contain bacteria) drip onto foods that will not be cooked further.

9. Which of these is a 'fomite' that could play a role in the spread of a respiratory virus?

Answer: A) A shared doorknob in a public building

A fomite is an inanimate object (like a doorknob, phone, or desk) that can carry infection from one person to another.

10. True or False: Chronic stress can weaken the immune system, making a person more susceptible to everyday illnesses.

Answer: A) True

High levels of stress hormones like cortisol can suppress the immune response, reducing the body's ability to fight off pathogens.