

Epidemiology

1. List the common non-living reservoirs of human infections discussed in class. What kinds of organisms are usually transmitted by each? What is the difference in the microbiological definition of a “reservoir” and the parasitological definition?
2. What is a communicable disease? What is the difference between a chronic and an intermittent carrier? Define clinical vs. subclinical. Give some examples.
3. What is a zoonotic disease? Give a couple examples.
4. Describe the various ways in which diseases can be transmitted. Draw a flow chart if it would be helpful. Discuss direct vs. indirect transmission, vector-borne, vehicle transmission, airborne, droplet, fomites, mechanical and biological vectors, oral- fecal transmission, etc.
5. What is the difference between horizontal and vertical transmission? Give a few examples of diseases that can be transmitted vertically.
6. Describe the three primary factors involved in the spread of nosocomial infections discussed in class? What is the best way to avoid outbreaks of nosocomial infections?
7. Define the terms incidence and prevalence. How is each calculated? How is each useful? What do they tell us about diseases?
8. Define the terms endemic, epidemic, sporadic, pandemic. Give an example for each.
9. Describe the difference between a common source and a propagated epidemic. Give an example for each.