

MISSION BRIEFING Vocabulary Terms

Vocabulary terms that are fundamental in understanding the concepts included in Mission Two are listed below. Some of the words will be encountered while playing Mission Two. Teachers should alert the students to the ability to click on the *hot-linked* words in the game.

bacilli - rod-shaped bacteria.

bacteria - one-celled microscopic organisms that multiply by cell division or binary fission. Cell is typically contained within a cell wall. Found as spherical, rod, and spiral shapes. Bacteria can spread through direct contact, indirect contact, food, water, air and animals.

case-control study - an epidemiological study that compares people with the disease (cholera) to those without the disease, cases versus controls. This can determine how the disease is being contracted. For example, cholera is an infectious disease that can be spread in food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. By knowing which food and water sick people consumed compared with those who did not get the disease, epidemiologists can identify the source of the contamination.

cocci - sphere-shaped bacteria.

contaminate - to make unclean, usually from contact with an impure source.

diarrhea - frequent, watery bowel movements.

epidemic - Increasing numbers of disease cases in a given area. The word comes from the Greek word *epi* meaning “upon” and the *demos* meaning “the people.” Thus, an epidemic is a disease on or among the people.

epidemiology - a branch of medicine that studies how and why diseases spread.

Germ Theory - proposed by Louis Pasteur, the Germ Theory states that germs cause infectious diseases.

Koch's Postulates - a set of rules to test whether a specific germ causes a particular infectious disease.

1. The pathogen must be present in every case of the disease.
2. The pathogen must be isolated from the host and grown in pure culture.
3. The disease must be reproduced when a pure culture of the pathogen is inoculated into a healthy, susceptible host.
4. The same pathogen must be recovered from the newly infected host.

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microorganism - A very small organism. Examples include bacteria, fungi, some parasites, and viruses.

oral rehydration solution (ORS) - a simple treatment for cholera and other diarrheal diseases consisting of a solution of salts, sugar, and water.

pathogen - an organism that can cause an infection or disease.

spirilla - spiral-shaped bacteria.

rice-water stool - the classic symptom of cholera; watery diarrhea containing electrolytes and bits of tissue that look like rice.

stool - excrement; waste eliminated from the body through the anus. "Feces" or "poop" are other words for stool.