adherence = attachment to host tissues
antibody = protein produced by immune system in response to an antigen
antigen = substance that causes antibody formation (immunogen)
antitoxins = antibodies produced against exotoxins
bacteremia = condition where bacteria are in the blood
carriers = people who harbor and transmit pathogens without exhibiting illness themselves
chancr = a hard sore with a center that ulcerates
coagulase = bacterial enzyme that causes blood to clot
coliforms = gram negative, aerobic or facultatively anaerobic rods that ferment lactose to acid and gas
commensalism = one organism benefits, the other is unaffected
communicable = a disease that can spread (directly or indirectly) from one host to another
compromised host = a host whose resistance to infection is impaired by disease, therapy or burns
contact transmission = spread of disease by direct contact or indirect contact
contagious = easily communicable disease
cytotoxin = bacterial toxin that kills host cells or alters their function
disease = result of an infection that changes the state of health
droplet transmission = transmission of infection by discharged mucous droplets
endemic = disease that is constantly present within a population
endotoxins = part of outer wall of cell wall of gram negative bacteria (lipid portion of lipopolysaccharide layer = lipid A)
enterotoxin = an exotoxin that causes gastroenteritis
epidemic = disease acquired by many hosts in a given area within a short time
epidemiology = science of when and where diseases occur and how they are transmitted
epitope = antigenic determinant
etiology = study of the cause of disease
exotoxins = secreted proteins, usually enzymes
fever = abnormally high body temperature produced in response to bacterial or viral infection
fomite = non-living object that can spread infection
gastroenteritis = inflammation of stomach or intestine
histamine = substance released by tissue cells that causes vasodilation, capillary permeability, and smooth muscle contraction
host = organism infected by a pathogen
hypersensitivity = allergy = exaggerated or heightened immune reaction that is injurious
humoral immunity = immunity produced by antibodies dissolved in body fluids, mediated by B cells
immunoglobulin = a protein (antibody) produced in response to an antigen that can react with that antigen
immunology = the study of a host’s specific defenses to a pathogen
incubation period = the time between infection and the first appearance of signs or symptoms of the disease
indirect contact transmission = spread of infection by fomites
infection = invasion or colonization of the body by pathogens
inflammation = host response to tissue damage that includes redness, swelling, pain, heat, and sometimes loss of function
interferons = antiviral proteins
leukocyte = a white blood cell
lipid A = component of gram negative outer membrane; endotoxin
macrophage = a phagocytic cell
microbial antagonism = normal flora benefit host by preventing overgrowth of harmful microorganisms
morbidity = the incidence of a specific disease
mortality = the number of deaths from a specific disease
mutualism = both organisms benefit
noncommunicable = not spread from one host to another
nonspecific resistance = host defenses that protect host from any kind of pathogen
normal flora = microorganisms that colonize the body but do not produce disease under normal conditions
nosocomial infections = disease acquired as a result of a hospital stay
opportunist = potentially pathogenic organism that does not cause disease in a healthy person
parasitism = one benefits, the other is harmed (typical pathogenic relationship)
parentreral route = entry of pathogens through a break in the skin
pathogenesis = manner in which a disease develops
pathogenicity = ability of a pathogen to produce a disease by overcoming host defenses
pathology = the scientific study of disease
phagocyte = a cell capable of engulfing and digesting particles that are harmful to the body
portal of entry = how pathogen gains access to the body
pus = accumulation of dead phagocytes, bacterial cells, and fluid
reservoir of infection = the source of disease organisms
resistance = ability to ward off diseases through body defenses
sebum = oily substance produced by sebaceous glands that coats some areas of skin and keeps hair from getting brittle
sepsis = a toxic condition resulting from the growth of bacteria in blood and tissue
septicemia = a bacterial infection of the blood
signs = objective changes that can be observed and measured by a physician
specific resistance = production of antibodies by the immune system against specific microorganisms
susceptibility = lack of resistance
symbiosis = living together
symptoms = changes in body function
syndrome = specific group of symptoms that always accompany a particular disease
toxemia = symptoms caused by toxins in blood
toxigenicity = ability to produce toxins
toxins = poisonous substances produced by specific MO
toxoid = an inactivated toxin
transient flora = microorganisms that are present for brief periods (days - months) and then disappear
vasodilation = increase in diameter of blood vessels
vectors = animals that carry pathogens from host to host
vehicle transmission = agents like water, food, air
virulence = the degree of pathogenicity
zoonoses = diseases that occur primarily in animals but can be transmitted to humans