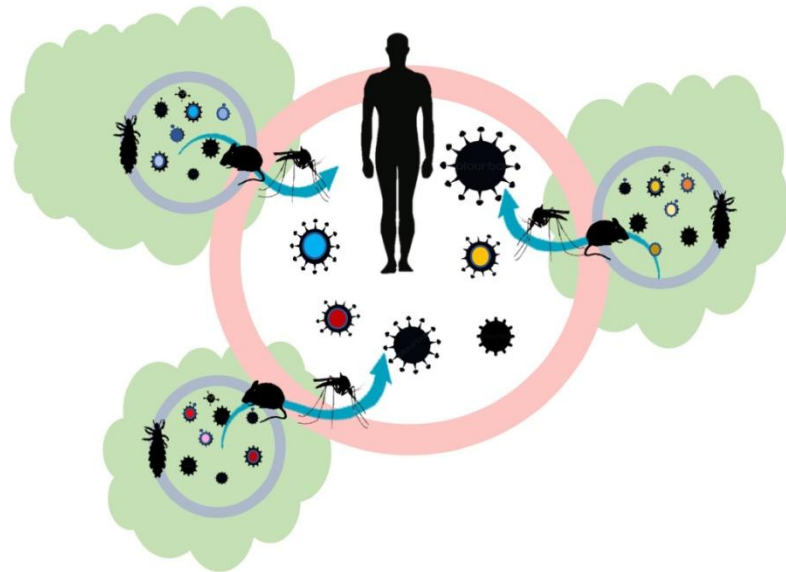
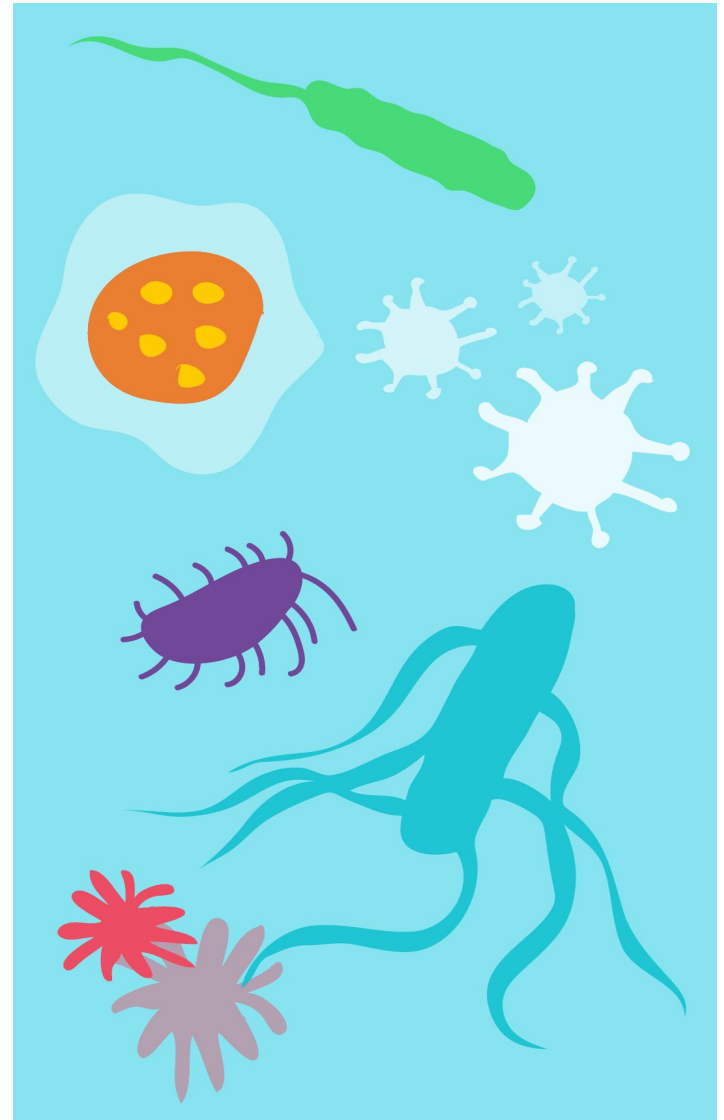


Infectious diseases

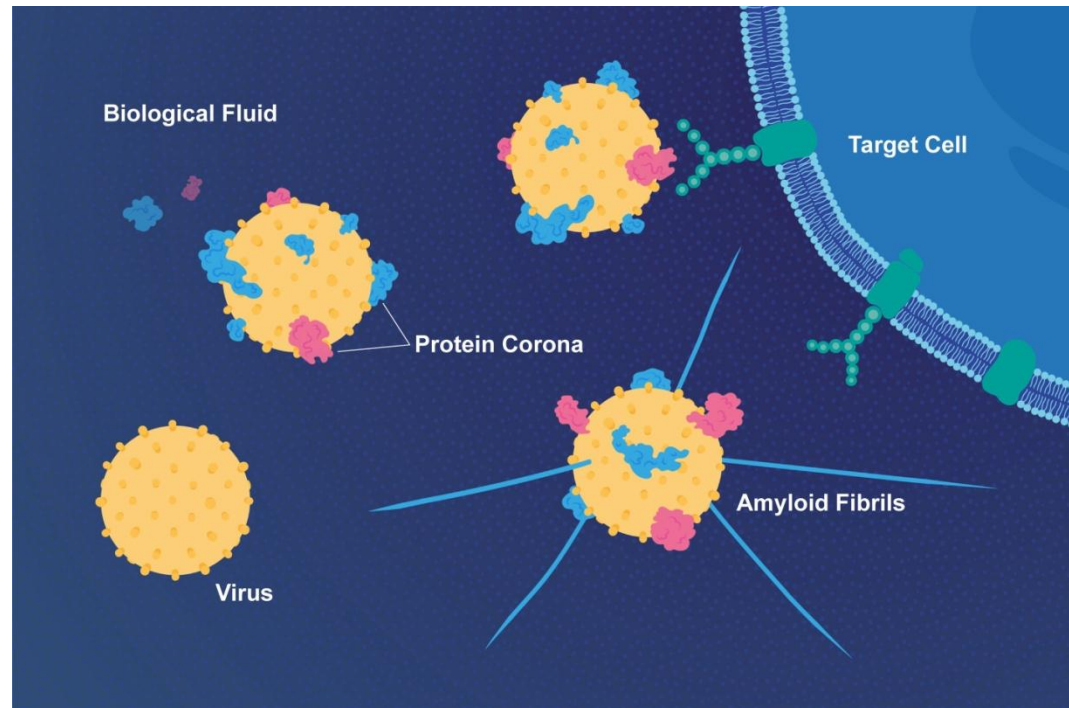


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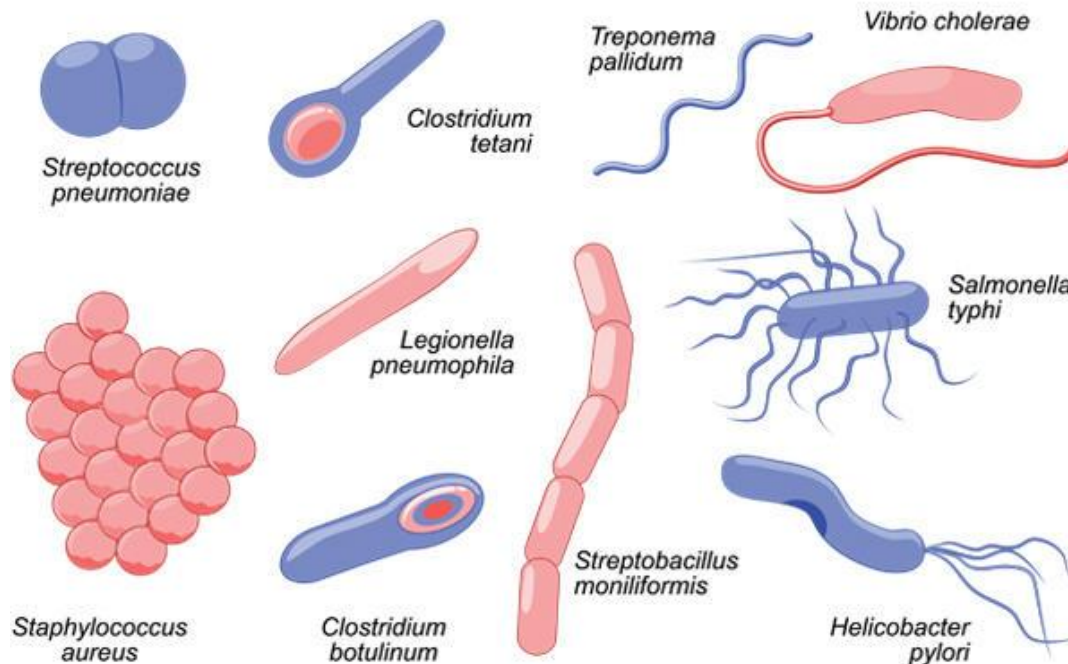
- Infectious diseases are disorders caused by organisms — such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites.
- Many organisms live in and on our bodies.
- They're normally harmless or even helpful. But under certain conditions, some organisms may cause disease.



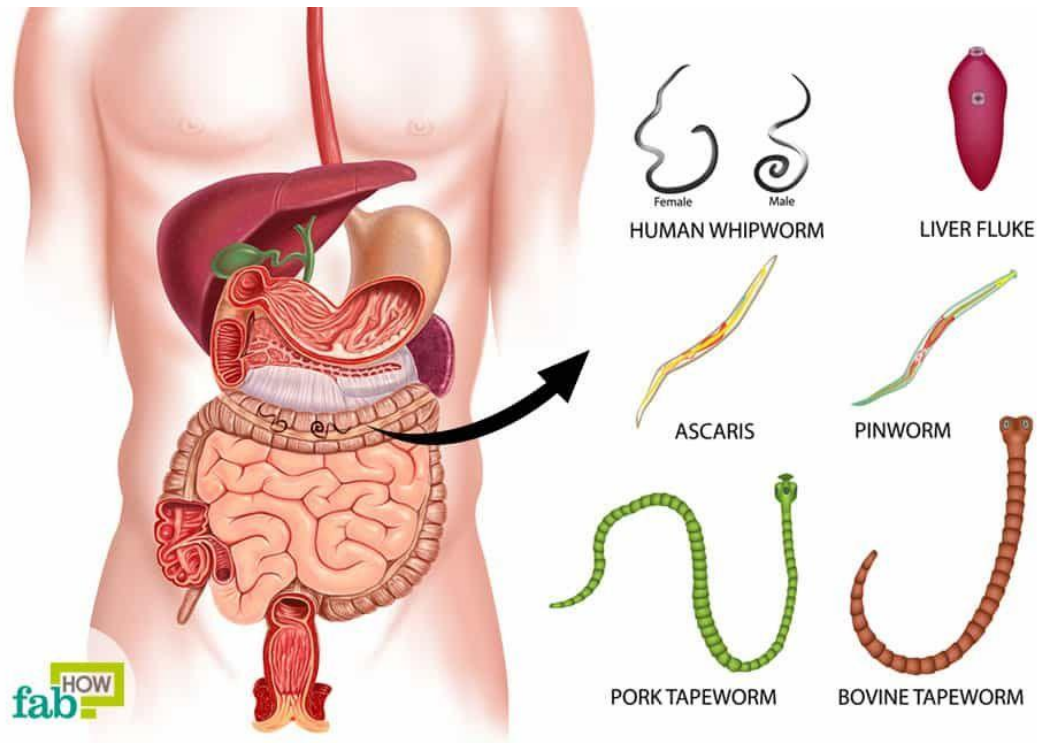
- A virus is a submicroscopic infectious agent that replicates only inside the living cells of an organism.
- Viruses can infect all types of life forms, from animals and plants to microorganisms, including bacteria and archaea.



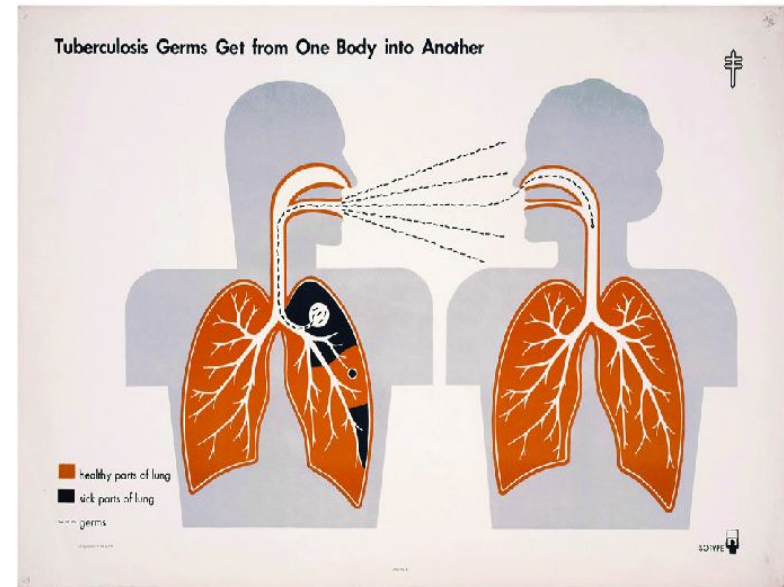
However, several species of bacteria are pathogenic and cause infectious diseases, including cholera, syphilis, anthrax, leprosy, and bubonic plague. The most common fatal bacterial diseases are respiratory infections.



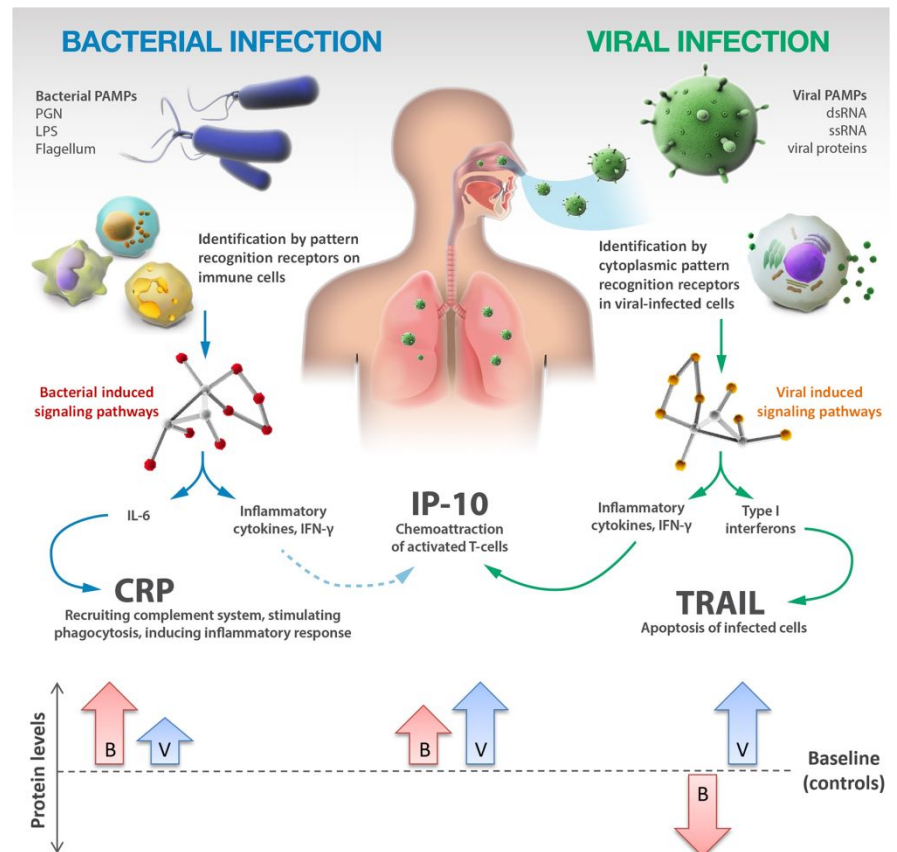
Human parasites include various protozoa and worms that may infect humans that cause parasitic diseases. Human parasites are divided into endoparasites, which cause infection inside the body, and ectoparasites, which cause infection superficially within the skin.



- Some infectious diseases can be passed from person to person.
- Some are transmitted by insects or other animals.
- And you may get others by consuming contaminated food or water or being exposed to organisms in the environment



Signs and symptoms vary depending on the organism causing the infection, but often include fever and fatigue.



Mild infections may respond to rest and home remedies, while some life-threatening infections may need hospitalization.



Many infectious diseases, such as measles and chickenpox, can be prevented by vaccines.

