



Foundations of Public Health

Part II: Biological Foundations for Public Health

INFECTIOUS AGENTS

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Introduction

This module will provide an overview of infectious disease with an emphasis on the agents that are currently most relevant.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

- Explain the major differences between prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells.
- List the major types of infectious agents and be able to distinguish between living and non-living agents.
- Explain the key differences among bacteria, fungi, protozoa, viruses, and prions.
- Describe how bacteria and viruses reproduce.
- List and describe the four general patterns of viral infection.
- Define 'prion', and discuss the role of prions in the epidemic of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the United Kingdom.
- Discuss the role of prions in Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD).
- Discuss how the British BSE epidemic in cattle caused disease in humans.