

Introduction to Epidemiology

Epidemiology · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. What is the primary focus of epidemiology?

- A) The study of disease in individual patients
- B) The study of the distribution and determinants of health in populations**
- C) The production of vaccines in laboratories
- D) The surgical treatment of chronic illnesses

2. Which term describes the total number of existing cases of a disease in a population at a specific time?

- A) Incidence
- B) Prevalence**
- C) Mortality
- D) Morbidity

3. What is an epidemic?

- A) A disease that occurs regularly at a low level in a population
- B) A disease that affects the entire world
- C) An increase in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected**
- D) The study of how bacteria grow

4. What does the term 'morbidity' refer to?

- A) The rate of death in a population
- B) The number of people who have a disease**
- C) The cause of an illness
- D) The duration of a medical study

5. What is a 'vector' in the context of disease transmission?

- A) A living organism that transmits an infectious agent to a host**
- B) A type of medical record
- C) A measurement of vaccine effectiveness
- D) A chemical used to clean hospitals

6. What term describes the constant presence of a disease within a specific geographic area?

- A) Pandemic
- B) Endemic**
- C) Sporadic
- D) Outbreak

7. Which measure represents the number of new cases of a disease during a specific period?

- A) Incidence**
- B) Prevalence
- C) Case fatality rate
- D) Attack rate

8. What is the 'incubation period'?

- A) The time between exposure to an agent and the onset of symptoms**
- B) The time a patient spends in the hospital
- C) The period required for a vaccine to be developed
- D) The duration of a clinical trial

9. What is a 'pandemic'?

- A) A local outbreak of a common cold
- B) An epidemic occurring over a very wide area, such as multiple continents**
- C) A disease found only in animals
- D) A disease that is not contagious

10. What is the 'case fatality rate'?

- A) The number of people who recover from a disease
- B) The proportion of persons with a particular condition who die from that condition**
- C) The total population of a city
- D) The percentage of people vaccinated

11. Which of these is a common 'route of transmission' for infectious diseases?

- A) Mathematical modeling
- B) Social media interaction
- C) Respiratory droplets**
- D) Genetic inheritance

12. What is the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states in populations called?

- A) Pharmacology
- B) Epidemiology**
- C) Anatomy
- D) Physiology

13. What does a 'host' represent in the epidemiological triangle?

- A) The environment where a pathogen lives
- B) The person or living organism that can be infected by an agent**
- C) The medical professional treating the patient
- D) The laboratory equipment used for testing

14. Which organization is the primary international public health agency?

- A) World Health Organization (WHO)**
- B) Red Cross
- C) United Nations
- D) Doctors Without Borders

15. What is the 'agent' in the epidemiological triangle?

- A) The climate of a region
- B) The organism or substance that causes disease**
- C) The healthcare system
- D) The patient's diet

16. What is the definition of a 'carrier' in epidemiology?

- A) A person who transports medical supplies
- B) A person who harbors a specific infectious agent without visible clinical disease**
- C) A patient currently in the hospital
- D) A medical doctor who specializes in surgery

17. What is 'surveillance' in public health?

- A) The ongoing systematic collection and analysis of health data**
- B) The act of blaming individuals for their illness
- C) The manufacturing of medical masks
- D) The process of interviewing hospital staff

18. Which term refers to the resistance of a population to an infectious disease due to immunity in a large proportion of the individuals?

- A) Herd immunity**
- B) Quarantine
- C) Isolation
- D) Active surveillance

19. What does 'direct transmission' mean?

- A) Transmission through contaminated water
- B) The transfer of an infectious agent through physical contact**
- C) Transmission via air conditioning units
- D) The transfer of disease through insect bites

20. What is a 'fomite'?

A) An inanimate object that can carry and spread infectious agents

B) A type of virus that affects animals

C) A specialized medical test

D) A geographic map of disease outbreaks