

Pathogens & Disease

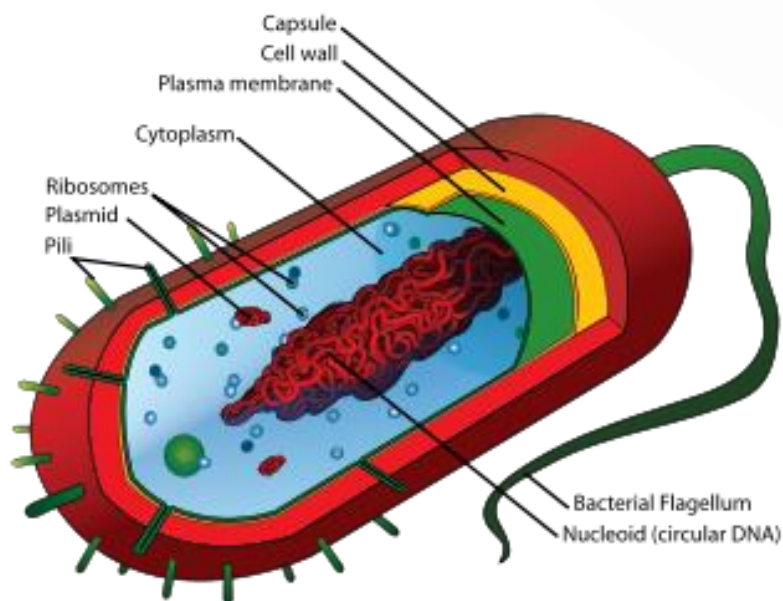
Pathogens are microorganisms that cause infectious diseases.

- **Bacteria** can reproduce rapidly inside the body. They produce toxins that make us feel ill.
- **Viruses** are much smaller and reproduce inside cells, damaging or destroying the cell.

Epidemic – occurs when a wide spread of people have a disease.

Pandemic - occurs when the disease affects a whole country or goes world wide. E.g. swine flu.

In the 1840s, a doctor called **Semmelweis** used evidence from the death rates of women to work out that they were dying because doctors were transferring something to them from dead bodies. He made all the doctors wash their hands between treating patients in chlorine water and, within a very short time, the death rate had decreased.



How a Virus Works

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