

# **AQA GCSE Biology (Higher) For the Summer 2022 Exams**

## **Flashcard Notes - 3.1.1 Communicable (infectious) diseases**

Copy the questions and answers below onto flashcards and use them to test yourself.

### **What is an infectious disease?**

An infectious disease is a disease caused by a harmful organism living in or on the body.

### **What is the general word for organisms that cause disease?**

The general word for organisms that cause disease is 'pathogens'.

### **What types of organisms can be pathogens?**

Organisms within the following groups can be pathogens:

- Bacteria
- Fungi
- Protists
- Viruses (note: technically, viruses are not considered to be organisms)

### **What types of organisms can be infected by pathogens?**

All organisms can be infected by pathogens, including all animals and all plants.

### **What are some of the main ways that pathogens spread from one organism to another?**

Some of the main ways that pathogens spread from one organism to another are:

- Direct contact
- Through water
- Through air

### **What might pathogens do after they enter an organism?**

Once pathogens enter an organism, they may reproduce rapidly inside the organism. They may also produce poisonous proteins called toxins which damage tissues and cause disease.

### **How do viruses live and reproduce?**

Viruses enter living cells and use the cells to enable them to live and reproduce. This causes damage to the cells.