

These are most key vocabulary words that you will need to know to succeed in lesson. Watch out for when these words occur as you do your reading, and record their definitions in your course journal.

- **communicable disease** - is a disease that is spread from one living thing to another or through the environment.
- **pathogen** - A communicable disease pathogen n organism that causes disease
- **infection** - a condition that occurs when pathogens enter the body, multiply, and damage body cells.
- **viruses** - pieces of genetic material surrounded by a protein coat.
- **bacteria** - single-celled microorganisms that live almost everywhere on earth.
- **toxin** - asubstance that kills cells or interferes with their functions.
- **vector** - An organism, usually an arthropod, such as a tick, that carries and transmits pathogens to humans or other animals