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STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE

CLASS-VIII

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▶ Microorganisms : Friends & Foe

Harmful Microorganisms

The bacterium, Lactobacillus converts milk into curd. Disease-causing microorganisms are called pathogens. Common ailments like cold, influenza (flu) and most coughs are caused by viruses. Serious diseases like polio and chicken pox are also caused by viruses.

Diseases like dysentery and malaria are caused by protozoans. Typhoid and tuberculosis (TB) are caused due to bacteria.

Some Common Human Diseases Caused by Microorganisms

Human Disease	Causative Microorganism	Mode of Transmission	Preventive Measures (General)
Tuberculosis	Bacteria	Air	Complete isolation of the patient. Keep the personal belongings of the patient away from those of the others. Vaccination at suitable age and time.
Measles	Virus	Air	
Chicken pox	Virus	Air/Contact	
Polio	Virus	Air/Water	
Cholera	Bacteria	Water/Food	Maintain personal hygiene and good sanitary habits. Consume properly cooked food and boiled drinking water. Vaccination.
Typhoid	Bacteria	Water	
Hepatitis B	Virus	Water	Drink boiled drinking water. Vaccination.
Malaria	Protozoa	Mosquito (female anopheles)	Use mosquito net and repellents, spray insecticides and control breeding of mosquitoes by not allowing water to collect in surroundings.

Foot and mouth disease of cattle is caused by a virus. Anthrax, a bacterial disease is very fatal for human and cattle.