Immunization flashcards

*Share these flashcards with session attendees to supplement the training you are providing. The cards cover basic immunization terminology and information to help team members reach their full potential. Instruct the session attendees to print the page of cards, cut along the dotted horizontal lines and then fold vertically on the solid lines to create flashcards that they can use to quiz themselves. Blank flashcards are available for your practice to add your own terms and definitions. For more sample definitions, please visit* [*vaccines.gov*](https://www.vaccines.gov/more_info/glossary/)*.*

*Example:*

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| *C:\Users\blim\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\5NGT0T42\Scissors_icon_black.svg[1].pngExample question:**Cut along dotted line**WHAT DOES PCMH STAND FOR?* | *Example answer:*Patient-Centered Medical Home*Fold here* |

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Source: *AMA. Practice transformation series: implementing a team-based adult immunization program. 2017.*

Antigen

An antigen is a foreign substance (e.g., part of a bacteria or virus) that triggers the production of antibodies by the body’s immune system.

Herd Immunity

Herd immunity, or community immunity, occurs when a community is protected from an outbreak because enough members of the community have been vaccinated. This is an important way of providing immunity to individuals who cannot receive certain vaccines (e.g., infants, pregnant women, immunocompromised individuals).

Protection against disease through antibodies produced by another human being or animal. Passive immunity is achieved when antibodies are given directly into the bloodstream (without necessarily being exposed to an antigen first), instead of letting the body make its own antibodies.

Passive Immunity

The production of antibodies against a specific disease by the immune system. Active immunity can be acquired in two ways, either by contracting a disease or through vaccination. Active immunity is usually permanent, meaning an individual is protected from the disease for the duration of their lives.

Active Immunity

An antibody is made by the body to recognize and attach to a specific antigen as part of the immune response.

Antibody

A VIS is a document produced by CDC that informs vaccine recipients – or their parents or legal representatives – about the benefits and risks of a vaccine they are receiving.

The process by which a person or animal becomes protected against a disease. This term is often used interchangeably with vaccination or inoculation.

Immunization

The complex system in the body responsible for fighting disease. Its primary function is to identify foreign substances in the body (bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites) and develop a defense against them. This defense is known as the immune response. It involves production of protein molecules called antibodies that recognize and help eliminate foreign organisms that invade the body.

Immune System

Protection against a disease. There are two types of immunity, passive and active. Immunity is indicated by the presence of antibodies in the blood and can usually be determined with a laboratory test.

Immunity

Organisms (e.g., bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi) that cause disease in human beings.

Pathogens

Vaccine Information Statement (VIS)

A tiny particle that multiplies within cells and causes disease such as chickenpox, measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis and hepatitis. Viruses are not affected by antibiotics, the drugs used to kill bacteria.

Virus

Administration of a vaccine containing particles of a killed or weakened infectious organism that can stimulate immunity to prevent disease.

Vaccination

A product containing particles of a killed or weakened pathogen that can produce immunity to protect the body from a disease. Vaccines are administered through needle injections, by mouth or by aerosol spray.

Vaccine