

Bioaerosols: Key terms

Allergen



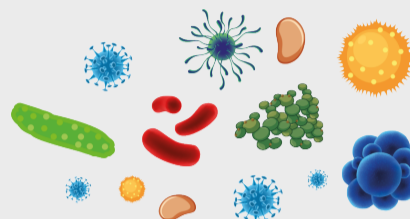
A substance that causes an allergic reaction.

Allergy



An immune reaction to a particular food or substance. Allergies are particularly common in children, but adults can get them too.

Bioaerosols



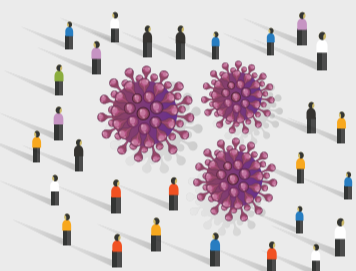
Particles of biological origin that are present in the air we breathe. They consist of both living and non-living components, such as fungi, pollen, bacteria, and viruses. Common sources of bioaerosols include soil, water, and sewage.

Epidemiology



The study and analysis of the distribution, patterns, and determinants of health and disease. It is used to find the causes of health outcomes and diseases in populations and is a vital part of understanding disease.

Exposure



Coming into contact with, being near to, or lacking protection from a hazard.

Hazard



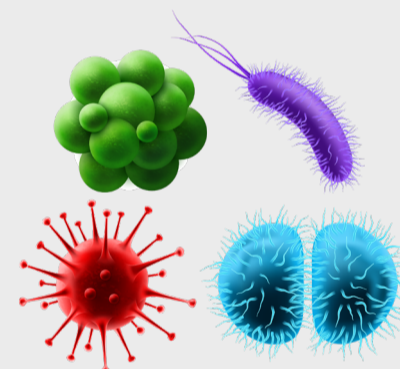
A potential source of harm.

Health Outcome



Changes in health that result from specific measures or exposures. This change can be negative (adverse health outcome) or positive (favourable health outcome).

Infection



The invasion of the human body by another organism. Organisms can include viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites.

Risk



The possibility or probability of something bad happening when exposed to a hazard.

Risk assessment

	1 Minor	2 Serious	3 Fatal
1 Unlikely	LOW - 1 -	LOW - 2 -	LOW - 3 -
2 Possible	LOW - 2 -	MEDIUM - 4 -	HIGH - 6 -
3 Probable	MEDIUM - 3 -	HIGH - 6 -	HIGH - 9 -

The process of characterising the nature and likelihood of a harmful effect to individuals or populations from certain activities.

Risk mitigation



An action or number of actions that can be used to reduce the level of risk from a particular hazard.

Sensitisation



The process of becoming more sensitive or prone to having a reaction to a particular agent. Sensitisation can occur from repeated exposure to an agent over time.

Risk communication



A method to raise awareness of risks from particular hazards.