

have a pair of these and coincidentally that is how diplococci grow, in pairs!

Spirilla



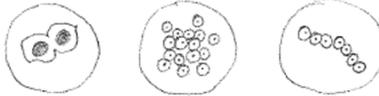
Corkscrew

Bacilli



Rod Shaped

Cocci



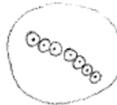
Round

Staphylococci



Grows in bunches, clusters and causes staph and boils

Streptococci



Grows in chains and causes strep throat

Diplococci



Grows in pairs and causes gonorrhea and pneumonia

There are 3 phases of bacteria. They are either active which is also known as vegetative; inactive which is known as spore forming or dead. If they are active, they are growing and reproducing, inactive they are lying dormant until their release to become active. I know some people when they hear of something in a vegetative state they automatically assume it is about to die so it is dormant. In this case think of bacteria being in a garden. If you are active in your garden you are able to grow and multiply your crops. If you are inactive in your garden nothing is going to happen.

What is a spore? A spore is pretty much a force field that goes around the piece of bacteria and literally allows the piece of bacteria to go wherever the wind, rain or other earthly element takes it.

In this stage (inactive), bacteria can rest and stay inactive until it has found something else to eat on and make it active again so it can get back to growing and multiplying.

Parasites are tiny, living organisms that live by attaching themselves to other living organisms feeding and stealing nourishment without giving anything in return. Some of you reading may have a few human “parasites” in your life right now! Parasites come in the form of either animal or plant. Poison ivy and ringworm are examples of plant parasites and bed bugs, itch mites and lice are all animal parasites. If you get stuck wondering the difference, animal parasites really are tinny insects. They have legs, arms and able to feed and nurse.

Plant parasites are a little different. Lice, or pediculosis, unfortunately are something you may see in this profession. Your test may call it lice, louse or pediculosis. Lice you are familiar with but did you know that louse is the singular form? Remember it this way, you can have one mouse or many mice the same way you can have one louse or many lice!

When taking your test it may say plant or bacterial parasites when referring to fungus, mold, mildew, ringworm or poison ivy. Some people hear the word “worm” when referring to ringworm and think that it is an animal. Ringworm is a fungus therefore it is a plant. It gets its name from the ring like pattern it leaves on infected skin. The technical term for ringworm is tinea.

When a piece of pathogenic (harmful) bacteria enters your body you are now infected. Contagious means it can be caught or passed from person to person and if many people in a small area catch the same disease, an epidemic has just occurred.

Here’s an example to remember: You get sneezed on and just became infected because these pathogenic germs are now in your body because they were contagious. You go home and sneeze on everyone at your house and they are all infected too. As they interact with the neighbors they too get infected and now everyone in your neighborhood has caught “The Sneeze”. There is now a sneeze epidemic in your neighborhood.

If these pathogens or bacteria get on you, your chair, clothes, tools or implements, you or your items have just become contaminated.

To clean them it is time to decontaminate. To contaminate means to dirty something up and decontaminate means to clean it. There are 3 levels of decontamination sanitation, disinfection and sterilization. The weakest of those is sanitation, sterilization is the strongest. Washing your hands with soap and water as well as using hand sanitizer are both forms of sanitation. Disinfection requires a little more work and uses products such as Pine Sol, Lysol, Bleach, Cool Care, Clorox or even Barbicide to name a few. Disinfection is also the most practical for barbers and the highest level you will use in the barbershop. Sterilization is the highest level overall and it comes from boiling and or baking the utensil being used for a procedure but this would be too time consuming and costly in the shop. A few ways to prevent contamination in the profession is to use a clean towel on every client including the one placed on the headrest, frequent handwashing and spraying your clippers with a disinfectant after every client as well as cleaning your implements using a disinfectant solution.

Your disinfectant should be an “EPA Registered Disinfectant”. EPA stands for Environmental Protection Agency and they are the federal agency responsible for enforcing rules and regulations dealing with the environment. Get it? The Environmental Protection Agency is the agency that protects the environment. Anyhow, when it comes to disinfectants there are 4 levels and the one you need is called a level 4 hospital grade tuberculocidal disinfectant. This is the only one that kills bacteria, fungus, HIV-1, Hepatitis B and Tuberculosis. For a disinfectant to be labeled good, it must be easily prepared, quick acting, odorless, non-corrosive, economical and non-irritating to the skin.

While in the shop or school, try not to confuse the contagious skin conditions like herpes simplex, ivy dermatitis (poison ivy), ringworm and scabies with skin inflammations like eczema, psoriasis and keloids. There are 2 types of infections. Infections found all over your body are known as general infections. Those found in only one spot are known as local infections. The way your body gets infected is through openings in your body. Infections occur by broken skin (a cut or scrape), eyes (pink eye), ears (ear infection), nose (sneezing), mouth (strep throat), and sexual organs (STDs). The body fights infections through unbroken skin, white blood cells, antitoxins, and body secretions (sweat, vomiting, urination and bowel movements).