

Technical Information:

Date: 06/08/05
Subject: Pathogens
Product: Disease

A **pathogen** is a biological agent that can cause disease to its host. A synonym of pathogen is "infectious agent". The term "pathogen" is most often used for agents that disrupt the normal physiology of a multi-cellular animal or plant.

A microorganism that can cause disease is called a pathogen. These pathogens include bacteria, protozoa, viruses, cysts, parasitic worms and toxic algae. Pathogens can cause diseases such as typhoid fever, cholera, enteroviral disease, bacillary and amoebic dysenteries, giardiasis, cryptosporidiosis, E. coli and many other varieties of gastrointestinal diseases.