

Glossary of terms - 2021

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Glossary of terms

Botulism: is caused by botulinum toxin, a poison produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*

Clostridium botulinum. The organism is common in the soil and aquatic sediments and can survive in these environments as a resistant spore.

Campylobacter: Commonest reported bacterial cause of infectious intestinal disease in England and Wales. Two species account for the majority of infections: *C. jejuni* and *C. coli*. Illness is characterised by severe diarrhoea and abdominal pain.

Listeria monocytogenes: Gram-positive pathogenic bacteria that can cause listeriosis in humans.

Pathogen: An infectious microorganism, bacteria, virus or other agent that can cause disease by infection.

Salmonella: A genus of Gram-negative bacteria which can cause salmonellosis in humans. Specific types of *Salmonella* are normally given a name, for example *Salmonella* Typhimurium has full name *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium.

Toxin: A poison, often a protein produced by some plants, certain animals, fungi and pathogenic bacteria, which can be highly toxic for other living organisms.