

GLOSSARY

- Acetaminophen:** A non-aspirin drug that reduces pain and lowers fever. It goes by several brand names, including Tylenol®.
- Antibody:** A protein produced by the immune system that helps identify and destroy foreign germs (virus or bacteria) that attack the body.
- Bacteremia:** Presence of bacteria in the blood.
- Convulsion:** *See seizure.*
- Encephalitis:** Inflammation of the brain.
- Epidemic:** A large outbreak of disease (*see outbreak*). An epidemic could include many people from the same city or community, or even from an entire country. A world-wide epidemic is called a *pandemic*.
- Exposure:** Contact with the germs that cause disease. A person must be *exposed* to a disease and be *susceptible* to it (*see below*) to get sick from the disease.
- Febrile Seizure:** A seizure caused by a high fever (*see seizure*).
- Immune:** Protected from a disease, even when exposed to it. People can become immune after getting a disease or by getting vaccinated against the disease. Opposite of *susceptible*.
- Immunity:** Protection from disease. Having *antibodies* (*see above*) to a disease makes a person immune.
- Local Reaction:** A reaction that is restricted to a single spot. With vaccines, a local reaction is usually redness, soreness, or a lump where the injection was given. (This is opposed to a *systemic* reaction, such as a fever or bacteremia, which affects the body as a whole.)
- Meningitis:** Inflammation of the covering of the brain or spinal cord.
- Outbreak:** An unusually large number of cases of a disease occurring around the same time and place, involving people who all got the disease from the same source or from each other.

- Paralysis:** Inability to move the muscles. Paralysis usually occurs in the arms or legs, but the muscles that control breathing can also be paralyzed.
- Schedule:** (Or *vaccination schedule*.) The ages and/or intervals at which children should get the various childhood vaccinations.
- Seizure:** A spell in which the muscles may jerk uncontrollably, or in which the patient will simply stare at nothing. Usually, a seizure lasts only a brief time and doesn't cause any permanent harm. A seizure can have many causes, including epilepsy or other brain disorders, or a high fever. Also called *convulsion*.
- Susceptible:** Vulnerable to disease. Someone who has never had a disease or been vaccinated against it is susceptible to that disease. Opposite of *immune*. A person who is immune is no longer susceptible.
- Toxin:** Poison.