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Microbiology

Updated: November 9, 2018.

Definition

The study of microorganisms such as fungi, bacteria, archaea, protozoa, and viruses ([MeSH](#)).

Scope and Emphasis

NLM collects research on the basic biology of microbes, including molecular structure and function, genetics, biochemical composition, physiological and biochemical processes, and the distribution and evolution of microorganisms, including adaptation to extreme environments such as hot springs, glaciers, space, etc. NLM emphasizes the applied research related to human disease, especially emerging infectious diseases. Studies of host-microbe relationships, microbial pathogenicity and virulence in humans and animal models are of particular interest. Applications to agriculture and environmental science, including food and soil microbial ecology, are included only when related to public health.