

L.35.1 : Infectious Disease

Causes of Infectious Disease

- **Infectious diseases** occur when microorganisms cause physiological changes that disrupt body functions.
- Microorganisms were called “germs”, so this conclusion was called the **germ theory of diseases**. The word *germ* has no scientific meaning.

Agents of Disease

- Infectious diseases can be caused by viruses, bacteria, fungi, protests, and parasites.
- **Viruses** : Infect host cells that causes destruction of cells.
- **Bacteria** : Break down host tissue, and release toxins which disturb homeostasis.
- **Fungi** : Grow n host tissue & feed on them, breaking them down.
- **Protests** : Feed on blood cells, and block blood vessels.
- **Parasites** : Reside in digestive tract, and feed on nutrients. Grow on muscles and damage them. Block certain blood vessels.