Glossary of immune response terms
A brief list of the most common terms used when describing the human immune system

**Innate Immune System**
Initial, non-specific immune response that tries to prevent infection while readying the adaptive immune response if necessary.¹

**Adaptive Immune System**
Secondary, more powerful immune response that mounts a targeted attack, specific to the disease antigens presented.²

**T Cells**
T cells are the first responders to any infection and signal to B cells to produce antibodies.²

**B Cells**
B cells can produce antibodies that attack the virus.³

**Antibodies**
Proteins designed to specifically bind to the disease antigen. Once bound they act as a marker to help other immune cells attack.⁵

**Antigens**
A protein produced by an infectious agent, or pathogen, that acts as a signal of disease.⁴

**Epitopes**
The area of an antigen to which an antibody binds, typically a short protein sequence (of amino acid chains).⁶

**T-Cell Memory**
T cells that remember specific aspects of a previous virus.⁸

**Cytokines**
Proteins that affect the behavior of immune cells. This includes the ability to trigger inflammation or healing, response against disease, or even dampen the immune response to prevent destruction of the body’s own cells.⁷

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