

Immune System

The immune system is a network of cells, tissues and organs that defend the body against harmful toxins and microorganisms.

1. red bone marrow: spongy tissue of the bone that produces cells of the immune system including lymphocytes and macrophages. Lymphocytes recognize antigens (harmful foreign bodies), and macrophages engulf and destroy antigens.

2. lymphatic system: network of lymph nodes and lymph vessels that store and transport disease-fighting immune cells.

3. thymus: organ of the immune system that produces a special kind of white blood cell called T lymphocytes or T cells. T cells detect and destroy infected cells in the body.

4. spleen: lymphoid organ that contains disease-fighting white blood cells and filters the blood by destroying old blood cells and removing small particles.

5. pharyngeal tonsils (adenoids): lymphoid tissue located in the back of the nasal cavity thought to be the first line of defense against inhaled pathogens (harmful microorganisms).

6. palatine tonsils: lymphoid tissue located at the back of the throat thought to be the first line of defense against inhaled pathogens (harmful microorganisms).

