

# 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).

