

Name _____

Fungi Fighters: Understanding Fungal Infections in Humans

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. One preventive measure individuals can take to avoid fungal infections is to practice good hygiene, including keeping skin clean and dry, avoiding sharing personal items such as towels and clothing, and wearing protective footwear in communal areas like locker rooms and swimming pools.
2. Individuals with weakened immune systems are more susceptible to fungal infections because their immune systems may not be able to effectively fight off fungal pathogens, leading to increased susceptibility to infection and more severe disease.
3. Antifungal medications can help manage fungal infections by targeting fungal cells and inhibiting their growth, thereby reducing symptoms and preventing the spread of infection. These medications may be taken orally, applied topically, or administered intravenously, depending on the type and severity of the infection.
4. Symptoms of a fungal infection may include itching, redness, swelling, and rash on the skin, as well as respiratory symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, and difficulty breathing. Individuals should seek medical attention if they experience persistent or worsening symptoms, especially if they have underlying health conditions or weakened immune systems.

