

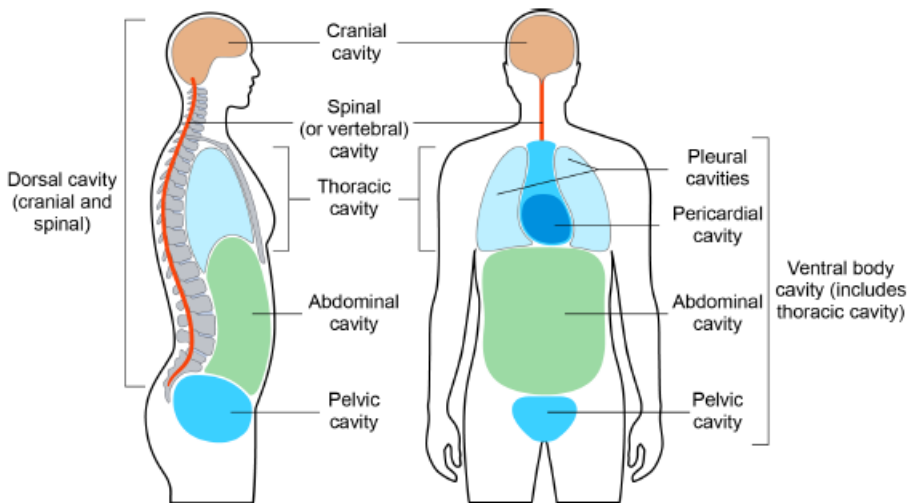
## Body Cavities

Also of importance to symptom interpretation and diagnostic processes are the various cavities of the body. Some of the important cavities to remember include the following:

- **Dorsal body cavity.** This cavity features two main subdivisions:
  - **Cranial cavity.** This cavity houses the brain, protected by bone and cerebrospinal fluid.
  - **Vertebral cavity (or spinal cavity).** This cavity encloses the spinal cord and is protected by vertebrae and cerebrospinal fluid.
  
- **Ventral body cavity.** This cavity also features three main subdivisions:
  - **Thoracic cavity.** This cavity is the upper cavity of the ventral body cavity and is enclosed by the rib cage. It contains two subdivisions:
    - **Pleural cavity.** This cavity contains the lungs.
    - **Pericardial cavity.** This cavity contains the heart.
  - **Abdominal cavity.** This cavity contains the digestive organs including the stomach, liver, gall bladder, small intestine, and large intestine; it also contains the kidneys.
  - **Pelvic cavity.** This cavity contains the bladder and reproductive organs.

These cavities are depicted in Exhibit 1-13.

**Exhibit 1-13: Body Cavities**



## Membranes

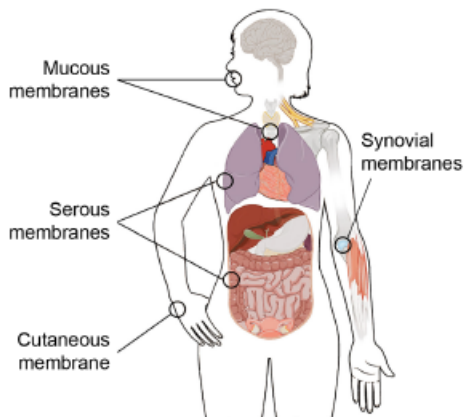
Important to the body's ability to avoid infection are **membranes**, which are a thin layer of cells that cover the exterior of the body, the organs, or internal passages that adjoin an orifice. These are the main types of membranes pertinent to infection prevention:

- **Mucous membranes.** These line the digestive, respiratory, urinary, and reproductive tracts. They are coated with secretions (mucus) that help protect the body from infection.
- **Serous membranes.** These line the peritoneal, pleural, and pericardial cavities, all of which are closed off from the exterior of the body.
- **Cutaneous membrane.** This is the skin, which covers the exterior of the body.
- **Synovial membranes.** These line joint cavities and produce the fluid within the joint.

The above tissue membranes in the body are often separated into two broader categories of membranes, epithelial and connective. Connective membranes include the synovial membranes, while epithelial membranes consist of mucous, serous, and cutaneous membranes.

Exhibit 1-14 depicts where each type of membrane is found.

**Exhibit 1-14: Membranes**



Nelson, A., & Greene, K. (2021). Medical Terminology for Healthcare Professions. University of West Florida Pressbooks. <https://pressbooks.uwf.edu/medicalterminology/>

## Symptom Terminology

When faced with a potential infectious individual, there are a wide range of symptoms that may arise. While it is impossible to define every potential symptom, we will examine many of the commonly encountered symptoms in Exhibit I-1.

**Exhibit 1-15: Symptom Terminology**

Symptom	Description
<b>Abscess</b>	An enclosed collection of pus in tissues, organs, or confined spaces in the body.
<b>Anemia</b>	A condition in which the number of red blood cells or hemoglobin is below the typically accepted range.
<b>Apnea</b>	A temporary absence of respiration.
<b>Bacteremia</b>	Viable bacteria in the blood.
<b>Cellulitis</b>	Infection of the skin and the tissue beneath the skin.
<b>Conjunctivitis</b>	Inflammation or infection of the conjunctiva of the eye, also called pinkeye.
<b>Coryza</b>	A runny nose or congestion caused by inflammation of the mucous membranes of the nose.
<b>Cyanosis</b>	A condition in which the oxygen supply is restricted, causing the skin to look blue.
<b>Emesis</b>	Vomiting.
<b>Expectoration</b>	The act of coughing up and spitting out the material produced in the respiratory tract, also called sputum production.
<b>Gastroenteritis</b>	Inflammation of the lining of the stomach and the intestines. It may result in diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain.
<b>Hematuria</b>	Blood in the urine.
<b>Hemoptysis</b>	Coughing or spitting up blood that originates from the lungs.

Exhibit 1-15: Symptom Terminology (continued)

Symptom	Description
<b>Hemorrhage</b>	Bleeding that originates from a damaged blood vessel.
<b>Hypoxia</b>	A lack of oxygen supply to the tissues.
<b>Impetigo</b>	An acute contagious staphylococcal or streptococcal skin disease characterized by vesicles, pustules, and yellowish crusts.
<b>Jaundice</b>	A condition in which the skin and the whites of the eyes become yellow, urine darkens, and the color of stool becomes lighter than normal.
<b>Koplik spots</b>	Small bluish white dots surrounded by a reddish zone that appear on the mucous membrane of the cheeks and lips before the appearance of the skin eruption in a case of measles.
<b>Lethargy</b>	A condition marked by drowsiness and an unusual lack of energy and mental alertness.
<b>Leukopenia</b>	A condition in which too few white blood cells are produced.
<b>Maculopapular</b>	A red rash with both flat red areas (macules) and small bumps (papules) that may run together.
<b>Meningitis</b>	Inflammation of the meninges, the tough membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord.
<b>Myalgia</b>	Pain in a muscle or group of muscles.
<b>Necrosis</b>	Death of body tissue.
<b>Otitis media</b>	Inflammation of the middle ear.
<b>Pneumonia</b>	A severe inflammation of the lungs in which the alveoli (tiny air sacs) are filled with fluid.
<b>Pruritus</b>	Itchy skin.