

Antigens

An antigen is a substance that when introduced into the body can evoke an immune response and induces the formation of a specific antibody or specially sensitized T cells or both. If the response leads to a state of immunity, the antigen is said to be immunogenic. Antigens are usually proteins and sometimes polysaccharides, this includes (coat, capsule, cell walls, flagellates and toxins). Of the bacteria and viruses, lipid and nucleic acids are antigenic only when combined with proteins or polysaccharides.