

Infectious Disease Doctor

The germ detective. Antibiotics, outbreaks and the infections nobody else can name, five years of residency after medical school.

TYPICAL PAY

\$300,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$220k to \$400k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

11 to 13 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Hospitals, outpatient clinics, public health units, academic centres

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Top marks in biology, chemistry, math and English. You need a very high average for a science undergrad.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 3 to 4 years
Any major works, but microbiology is a natural fit. Keep a GPA (grade point average) above 3.8, volunteer, do research. Write the MCAT (medical school admission test).
- 3 Medical school, the MD (doctor of medicine)** 3 to 4 years
Acceptance rates are 5% to 15%. Classes, then clinical rotations.
- 4 Internal medicine residency** 3 years
Matched through CaRMS (the residency matching service). Hospital wards, the ICU (intensive care unit) and clinics. In year 3 you apply to the subspecialty match.
- 5 Infectious diseases residency, then certification** 2 years
Hospital consults, HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) and tuberculosis clinics, the microbiology lab, infection control and antibiotic stewardship. Pass the Royal College exams to become FRCPC (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada) and register with your...

Pros and cons

- + The most interesting cases in the hospital land on your desk
- + Salaried academic and public health jobs with pensions are common
- + Real global travel and outbreak work if you want it
- Among the lower-paid internal medicine subspecialties
- Thirteen years of training for a no-procedure specialty
- Pandemics put you in the spotlight and on call for months

Good to know

Thousands of Canadian deaths a year from resistant bugs

The Public Health Agency of Canada estimated that in 2018 more than a quarter of bacterial infections in Canada resisted at least one first-line antibiotic, and that about 14,000 deaths that year were link...

Toronto was hit by SARS (the 2003 respiratory virus outbr...

In 2003, Toronto was the only city outside Asia with a major SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) outbreak. Hundreds of people were infected and dozens died. The response was led by infectious d...

Optional boosts

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) care. Infection prevention and control. Antibiotic stewardship. Public health and outbreak response.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Infectious Disease Physician, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

CIHI: A profile of physicians in Canada, 2024 (payments)

AMMI Canada (Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada)

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/infectious-disease-doctor>



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