



BASIC BACTERIAL SHAPES



Bacteria come in all shapes and sizes, but there are three basic shapes that bacteria take. Those three shapes are coccus, bacillus, and spirochete. A coccus is a round shaped bacterium. An example of a coccus shaped bacterium is *Staphylococcus aureus*. A bacillus is a rod shaped bacterium. An example of a bacterium that is a bacillus is *Escherichia coli*. A spirochete bacterium is a bacterium in the shape of a spiral. An example of a spirochete is *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is one causative species of Lyme disease.

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