The second edition of this popular Instant Notes format covers a full range of microbiology: bacterial, archaean, viral, protozoal, fungal and prionial in only 330 pages. The book does what it sets out to do and gives key facts on the major important areas. It will be popular with students due to its affordability and simplicity of its diagrams. Phylogenetic relationships are discussed for the bacteria and a suggestion for a future revision would be to remove more of the taxonomic details and introduce phylogenetic relationships for the viruses along with a short discussion of the origins of HIV. Also the flagellar diagram in bacterial structure could do with updating. These are very minor suggestions and the authors are to be congratulated on the quality of what they have packed into this study guide. I cannot imagine anyone producing a better version at the same affordable price for students.

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