

## CHAPTER 3

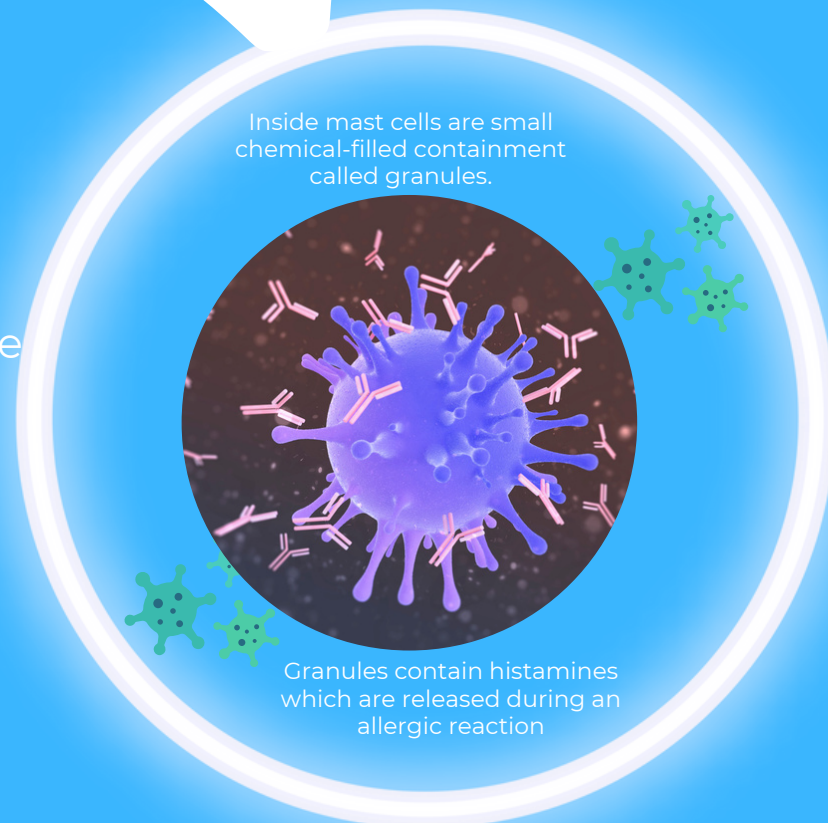
# PICTORIAL ILLUSTRATION OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AND ALLERGIC REACTION



Food allergy occurs when the body's immune system reacts unusually to specific foods. Various symptoms are observed as elaborated in chapter 3

So, what is happening in the body?

- Immune cells responds to food allergens as foreign.
- The cells produce specific proteins called antibodies capable of binding to the food allergens
- The reaction between the antibody and antigen sets off a series of chemical reactions
- An allergy develops when this occurs against the allergen
- Mast cells are one of the type of cells involved.



Inside mast cells are small chemical-filled containment called granules.

Granules contain histamines which are released during an allergic reaction