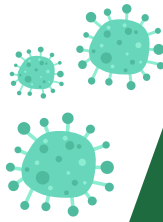


WHAT IS ANTHRAX?

Anthrax is a serious infectious disease caused by a bacteria known as *Bacillus anthracis* which occurs naturally in soil. People can get sick with anthrax if they come in contact with infected animals or contaminated animal products. Anthrax can cause severe illness in both humans and animals.

How do you get sick with Anthrax?

People get infected with anthrax when spores get into the body. When this happens, the spores can be activated and become anthrax bacteria. Then the bacteria can multiply, spread out in the body, produce toxins, and cause severe illness.



Anthrax is not contagious, which means you can't catch it from another person like the cold or flu.

People get anthrax by:



BREATHING IN SPORES



EATING FOOD OR DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATED WITH SPORES



GETTING SPORES IN A CUT OR SCRAPER

Certain activities can increase the risk of getting anthrax such as:



Working with infected animals or animal products

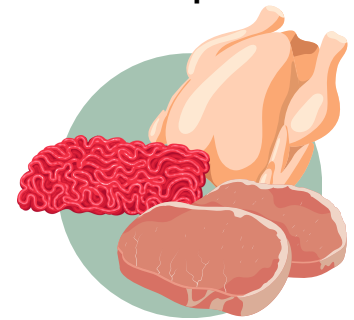
What are the symptoms?

The symptoms of anthrax depend on the type of infection and can take anywhere from **1 day to more than 2 months** to appear.

Cutaneous anthrax symptoms include:

- A group of small blisters or bumps that may itch
- Swelling can occur around the sore
- A painless skin sore (ulcer) with a black center that appears after the small blisters or bumps
- Most often the sore will be on the face, neck, arms, or hand

Inhalation and gastrointestinal symptoms continued on back page.



Eating raw or undercooked meat from infected animals

Source:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/anthrax/basics/index.html>



What are the symptoms? (continued)

Inhalation anthrax symptoms include:



Fever and chills



Chest discomfort



Shortness of breath



Nausea, vomiting, or stomach pains



Headache



Sweats (often drenching)



Confusion or dizziness



Cough



Body aches



Extreme tiredness

Gastrointestinal anthrax symptoms include:



Fever and chills



Swelling of neck or neck glands



Painful swallowing



Sore throat



Hoarseness



Nausea, bloody vomiting, and stomach pains



Diarrhea or bloody diarrhea



Red face and red eyes



Fainting



Swelling of abdomen (stomach)

How is an Anthrax infection treated?

Options for treating patients with anthrax include antibiotics and antitoxins. For people who have been exposed to anthrax but have not yet shown symptoms, certain antibiotics can be used to prevent sickness from developing.

How can Anthrax be prevented?

If you are visiting an area where anthrax is common or where an outbreak is occurring in animals, do not eat raw or undercooked meat and avoid contact with livestock, animal products, and animal carcasses.

Disclaimer: This information does not constitute medical advice or a doctor-patient relationship

