



## ANTHRAX

### WHAT IS ANTHRAX?

ANTHRAX IS AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE CAUSED BY THE BACTERIUM *Bacillus anthracis*. THERE ARE THREE FORMS OF ANTHRAX INFECTION: SKIN, LUNGS, AND STOMACH/INTESTINE.

### HOW COMMON IS ANTHRAX AND WHO CAN GET IT?

ANTHRAX OCCURS NATURALLY AROUND THE WORLD IN WILD AND DOMESTIC HOOFED ANIMALS. IT IS MOST COMMON IN FARM SETTINGS WHERE IT OCCURS IN ANIMALS.

### HOW IS ANTHRAX SPREAD?

ANTHRAX IS USUALLY SPREAD IN THE FORM OF A SPORE IN ONE OF THREE WAYS:

- SKIN - MOST ANTHRAX INFECTIONS OCCUR WHEN PEOPLE TOUCH INFECTED ANIMAL PRODUCTS LIKE WOOL, BONE, HAIR AND HIDE. THE INFECTION OCCURS WHEN THE BACTERIA ENTERS A CUT OR SCRATCH IN THE SKIN.
- LUNG - SOME ANTHRAX INFECTIONS OCCUR WHEN PEOPLE BREATHE A LARGE NUMBER OF SPORES OF THE BACTERIA.
- STOMACH/INTESTINE - SOME PEOPLE MAY GET ANTHRAX BY EATING INFECTED MEAT THAT HAS NOT BEEN PROPERLY COOKED.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF ANTHRAX?

SYMPTOMS OF A SKIN INFECTION INCLUDE ITCHING WHERE THE SKIN HAS BEEN INFECTED. A LARGE SORE THEN APPEARS AND BECOMES COVERED BY A BLACK SCAB. SYMPTOMS OF A LUNG INFECTION INCLUDE FEVER, TIREDNESS, AND A COUGH OR CHEST PAIN. HIGH FEVER, FAST PULSE AND HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING FOLLOW IN TWO TO FIVE DAYS, AND DEATH CAN OCCUR. STOMACH/INTESTINE INFECTION INCLUDES FEVER, STOMACH PAIN, DIARRHEA, AND VOMITING WITH BLOOD.

### HOW SOON AFTER EXPOSURE DO SYMPTOMS DEVELOP?

MOST PEOPLE BECOME ILL WITHIN 48 HOURS AFTER INFECTION.

### WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR ILLNESS CAUSED BY ANTHRAX?

THERE ARE SEVERAL MEDICATIONS USED TO SUCCESSFULLY TREAT ANTHRAX.

### IS THERE A WAY TO PREVENT INFECTION?

ANTHRAX VACCINE IS AVAILABLE.

### DO I NEED TO DISINFECT MYSELF OR MY BELONGINGS IF I BELIEVE I WAS EXPOSED TO ANTHRAX?

TO STOP INFECTION IF YOU HAVE A SKIN EXPOSURE TO THE POWDER OR OTHER SUBSTANCE, WASH YOUR HANDS WELL WITH SOAP AND WATER, SHOWER WITH SOAP AND WATER, AND WASH POSSIBLY INFECTED CLOTHES IN THE REGULAR LAUNDRY.