



Q-FEVER

WHAT IS Q-FEVER?

Q-FEVER IS A RICKETTSIAL INFECTION CAUSED BY ***Coxiella burnetii***.

WHO GETS Q-FEVER?

VETERINARIANS AND OTHERS WHO WORK WITH PREGNANT CATTLE, SHEEP AND GOATS ARE MOST AT RISK FOR GETTING Q-FEVER.

HOW IS Q-FEVER SPREAD?

SHEEP, GOATS AND CATTLE ARE THE MAIN SOURCE OF Q-FEVER. IT IS SPREAD FROM CONTACT WITH DISCHARGES SUCH AS MILK, URINE, FECES AND THE AFTERBIRTH OF INFECTED ANIMALS.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF Q-FEVER?

Q-FEVER USUALLY BEGINS WITH A HIGH FEVER, SEVERE HEADACHE, GENERAL TIREDNESS, CONFUSION, SORE THROAT, CHILLS, SWEATS, COUGH, NAUSEA, VOMITING, DIARRHEA, STOMACH PAIN, AND CHEST PAIN. FEVERS CAN LAST FOR ONE TO TWO WEEKS AND WEIGHT LOSS CAN OCCUR AND LAST FOR SOME TIME. THE ILLNESS CAN DEVELOP INTO PNEUMONIA OR HEART DISEASE.

HOW SOON AFTER EXPOSURE DO SYMPTOMS DEVELOP?

MOST PEOPLE BECOME ILL TWO TO THREE WEEKS AFTER INFECTION. SOMETIMES THE DISEASE CAN DEVELOP UP TO TWO YEARS AFTER INITIAL INFECTION.

CAN Q-FEVER BE SPREAD PERSON TO PERSON?

DIRECT, PERSON-TO-PERSON INFECTION IS RARE.

WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR ILLNESS CAUSED BY Q-FEVER?

MEDICATION IS USED TO TREAT Q-FEVER.

IS THERE A WAY TO PREVENT INFECTION?

WHILE THERE IS A VACCINE FOR Q-FEVER, IT IS ONLY GIVEN TO LABORATORY WORKERS WHO WORK WITH ANIMALS AND MATERIAL THAT ARE THE CAUSES OF INFECTION. ON FARMS, PEOPLE SHOULD AVOID CONTACT WITH DISCHARGES OF SHEEP, GOATS AND CATTLE. GLOVES, ARM SLEEVES AND PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR SHOULD BE WORN WHEN ASSISTING WITH ANIMAL BIRTHS. IN ADDITION, ONLY PASTEURIZED MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS SHOULD BE EATEN.