



PUBLIC FACT SHEET

BRUCELLOSIS

What is brucellosis?

Brucellosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria. It is primarily passed from animals to humans, and is usually found in sheep, goats, cattle, pigs, and deer.

How common is brucellosis?

Brucellosis is usually found in countries that do not have effective public health and domestic animal programs. It is not commonly found in the United States.

How is brucellosis spread?

Brucellosis may be spread through the following ways:

- eating or drinking of contaminated milk products
- breathing in the bacteria
- entering the body through skin wounds

Brucellosis may be used as a weapon of bioterrorism by making the bacteria airborne.

Person to person spread of brucellosis is rare, although it may be transmitted through breast-feeding or sexual transmission.

What are possible symptoms?

General symptoms of the disease:

- fever
- headache
- physical weakness
- sweating
- chills
- weight loss
- muscle aches

Symptoms may occur anywhere from a few days to several weeks after exposure

How is brucellosis diagnosed?

Brucellosis is usually diagnosed through laboratory test of blood, urine, spinal fluid or bone marrow.

What is the treatment for brucellosis?

The recommended treatment for brucellosis is through a combination of antibiotics that lasts for six weeks, although recovery may take between a few weeks to several months.

How can brucellosis be prevented?

Brucellosis can be prevented by avoiding all unpasteurized dairy products. There is no vaccine available for humans.

For more information on brucellosis contact:

Ottawa County Health Department
www.miOttawa.org

Center for Disease Control and Prevention
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_brucellosis.htm
Phone: (888) 246-2675