

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

Brucellosis

What is Brucellosis?

Brucellosis is a contagious disease caused by germs most commonly found in hoofed mammals and their products (such as milk or meat).

How do you get Brucellosis?

Humans are generally infected in one of three ways: eating or drinking something that is infected with the germ, breathing in the germ or having the germ enter the body through skin wounds.

What are the symptoms of Brucellosis?

Symptoms of the disease appear as flu-like symptoms; fever, sweating, headaches, back pain and physical weakness. Brucellosis can also cause long lasting or chronic symptoms that include recurrent fevers, joint pain and fatigue.

How is Brucellosis spread?

Person to person spread is not likely, if it occurs at all. Therefore, there is no need to treat contacts of persons ill with Brucellosis, (such as household contacts, friends, or coworkers), unless they also came in contact with the same source of infection.

What is the treatment for Brucellosis?

Persons who have come in contact with a Brucellosis source can be protected from the disease with antibiotic treatment (such as Doxycycline and Rifampin).

For more information on Brucellosis, call (248) 858-1406 or toll free 1 (800) 848-5533.