

## Glanders

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### What is Glanders?

Glanders is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Burkholderia mallei*. Glanders mainly infected horses, donkeys and mules, but can also infect goats, dogs, cats and people.

Glanders is normally found in parts of Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Central and South America

### Signs and Symptoms

The incubation period varies from 1-14 days, but can be up to 12 weeks. General symptoms include:

- Fever with chills and sweating
- Muscle ache
- Chest pain
- Headache
- Nasal discharge
- Light sensitivity

Other symptoms may develop, based on mode of transmission:

Localized infection:

- Ulceration at the site will develop within 1-5 days

Pulmonary infection:

- Pneumonia
- Pulmonary abscesses
- Pleural effusion

Bloodstream infection:

- Usually fatal within 7-10 days if not treated

### Transmission (How it spreads)

Inhalation of infected aerosols or dust contaminated by infected animals

Direct contact with tissues or body fluids of infected animals via mucosal surfaces (eyes and nose)

Cutaneous – via cuts or abrasions in the skin

### Diagnosis and Treatment

Diagnosis is difficult, but blood tests can be ordered

Antibiotics are available for treatment, including Tetracyclines and Ciprofloxacin, among others

### Prevention:

In endemic countries, elimination of infection within the animal population

In a healthcare setting, using standard and airborne precautions

### Who's At Risk?

No naturally occurring cases have been reported in the United States since the 1940s. Those who handle infected specimens or care for infected animals are at an increased risk, including:

- Veterinarians
- Horse caretakers
- Laboratorians
- Slaughterhouse workers

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider

Report cases to the Riley County Health Department by calling the Disease Investigation  
Line: 785-317-0474