

Melioidosis

What is Melioidosis?

Melioidosis is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. It is also known as Whitmore's disease.

Several species of animals are susceptible to infection, including: sheep, goats, swine, horses, cats, dogs, and cattle

Signs and Symptoms

The incubation period ranges from 1 – 21 days, with symptoms usually appearing 9 days after exposure.

Localized infection:

- Pain or swelling at site of infection
- Fever
- Ulceration
- Abscesses

Bloodstream infection:

- Fever
- Headache
- Respiratory distress
- Abdominal pain
- Joint pain

Pulmonary infection:

- Cough
- Chest pain
- High fever

- Headache
- Anorexia

Transmission (How it spreads)

Direct contact with contaminated soil and surface water

Inhalation of contaminated dust or water droplets

Ingestion of contaminated water

Cutaneous – via contact with contaminated soil through skin abrasions

Diagnosis and Treatment

Isolation of the bacteria via testing the blood, urine, sputum, lesions or a throat swab

Treatment varies by infection type; IV therapy or oral antibiotics are prescribed

Prevention:

Those who are at risk through agricultural occupation should wear boots; healthcare workers should follow standard contact precautions

Who's at Risk?

It is predominately found in tropical climates, especially in Southeast Asia and northern Australia

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