

Q Fever

What is Q Fever?

Q Fever is a disease caused by the bacteria *Coxiella burnetii*. *C. burnetii* naturally infects some animals, including goats, sheep, and cattle.

Signs and Symptoms

The incubation period can last from 2-3 weeks. Approximately 50% of those infected show symptoms; symptoms include:

- Fever
- Chills or sweats
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle Ache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chest pain
- Abdominal pain
- Weight loss
- Non-productive cough

Symptoms can be mild or severe, and can progress to pneumonia or hepatitis. Women who are infected while pregnant may be at risk for miscarriage, stillbirth, pre-term delivery or low infant birth weight. Rarely Chronic Q Fever can develop, leading to endocarditis and can be deadly.

Transmission (How it spreads)

Inhalation of dust that has been contaminated by infected animal feces, urine, milk, and birth products

Ingestion of contaminated and/or unpasteurized dairy products

Diagnosis and Treatment

Diagnosis is difficult, but blood tests can be ordered

If symptoms develop, a 14-day cycle of doxycycline is recommended

Chronic Q Fever is treated with several months of antibiotics

Prevention:

Avoiding contact with animals, especially those giving birth

Do NOT consume raw milk or raw milk products

Who's At Risk?

Everyone; higher risk groups include:

- Veterinarians
- Farmers
- Meat processing plant workers
- Dairy 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

Q Fever is a reportable disease in the state of Kansas. All cases must be reported to KDHE via the Epi Hotline: 877-427-7317