

Tularemia

What is Tularemia?

Tularemia is bacterial disease caused by the bacterium *Francisella tularensis*.

Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms can appear from 3-5 days after exposure, and can take as long as 14 days. They include:

- Sudden fever
- Chills
- Headaches
- Diarrhea
- Muscle pain
- Joint pain
- Dry Cough
- Progressive weakness

Complications can also include pneumonia, chest pain, bloody sputum, and difficulty breathing.

Symptoms can vary by mode of transmission, and can also include: ulcers on the skin or mouth, swollen lymph glands, swollen, painful eyes and a sore-throat

Transmission (How it spreads)

- From the bite of an infected tick, deerfly or other insect
- Handling infected animal carcasses
- Eating/drinking contaminated food and water
- Inhaling the bacteria

Diagnosis and Treatment

Blood tests and cultures can confirm diagnosis

Antibiotics are used to treat tularemia, including streptomycin, gentamicin, doxycycline, and ciprofloxacin. Regimens usually last 10-21 days

Prevention:

- Use of insect repellent
- Wearing gloves when handling sick or dead animals
- Avoiding mowing over dead animals

Who is at Risk?

Some occupations are at a greater risk than the general public. This includes: hunters/trappers, veterinarians, and farmers

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

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