

Anthrax

What is Anthrax?

Anthrax is a bacterial disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*

Signs and Symptoms

The signs and symptoms of disease vary by transmission type. Generally, symptoms can appear within 7 days after exposure. Inhalational anthrax symptoms can appear up to 42 days after exposure

Cutaneous Anthrax

- Sore that develops into a blister
- Blister turns into an ulcer that is black in the middle

Gastrointestinal Anthrax

- Nausea
- Loss of Appetite
- Bloody Diarrhea
- Fever
- Stomach Pain

Inhalational Anthrax:

- Sore throat
- Mild fever
- Muscle ache
- Cough and chest discomfort

- Shortness of breath
- Tiredness

Transmission (How it spreads)

Anthrax is not contagious you cannot catch it from someone else

Cutaneous – the bacterium enters the body through a cut or open wound

Gastrointestinal – the bacterium is ingested by eating raw or undercooked meat from infected animals

Inhalational – the bacterium is inhaled and enters the lungs

Diagnosis and Treatment

Isolation of the bacterium from the blood, skin or respiratory secretions

Antibody testing

Antibiotics are used to treat anthrax infections

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

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