



# Anthrax Disease and Transmission

## Anthrax Disease

<p><b>How do you get anthrax?</b></p>	<p>There are three different kinds of infections you can get from anthrax.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In the lungs:</b> breathing in anthrax spores.</li> <li>• <b>On the skin:</b> entering the body through a cut or opening in the skin.</li> <li>• <b>Through the digestive system:</b> eating undercooked meat from infected animals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How can anthrax be used as a bioterrorist agent?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthrax spores could be released into the air.</li> <li>• Anthrax spores cannot be detected by color, smell, or taste.</li> <li>• In the United States in 2001, 22 people were infected with anthrax from letters containing a powder form of anthrax.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How can I protect myself?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you hear or see on the news that there has been an anthrax event and you were either near or at the event, contact local law enforcement. See your health care provider right away.</li> <li>• In the event of an attack using anthrax as a weapon, people exposed may be given a vaccine.</li> <li>• <b>It is not spread person to person.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>How soon will I get sick?</b></p>	<p>Symptoms can appear within 7 days. The symptoms will vary depending on how you were infected with the disease.</p>
<p><b>Symptoms?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lungs:</b> cold/flu like systems, sore throat, mild fever, shortness of breath, muscle aches.</li> <li>• <b>Skin:</b> a small sore will develop into a blister, then into a skin ulcer with a black area in the center. The sore does not hurt.</li> <li>• <b>Digestive System (eating contaminated foods):</b> nausea, loss of appetite, bloody diarrhea and fever, followed by a stomach pain.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Treatment?</b></p>	<p>See your doctor. Usually 60-day courses of antibiotics are prescribed.</p> <p><b>Anthrax can be fatal if not treated.</b></p>