

CDRS

Communicable Disease Reporting System

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET **BRUCELLOSIS**

Brucellosis is caused by a group of bacteria which typically infect cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats, dogs, and humans. Wild rabbits and rodents have been known to transmit the disease to livestock, especially swine.

Symptoms

Symptoms generally appear within 5 to 60 days, but may take up to a year.

- Most common symptom is fever often accompanied by chills, sweating and weakness
- Other symptoms may include insomnia, sexual impotence, headache, lack of appetite, and painful joints.
- Enlarged lymph nodes, spleen, and liver can also occur

Transmission

- In humans, transmission generally occurs by one of three methods: eating or drinking contaminated foods, breathing in the organism, or having the bacteria enter the body through skin wounds.
- The most common way to be infected is by eating or drinking contaminated milk products, including unpasteurized milk, ice cream, or cheese.
- Direct person-to-person spread of brucellosis is extremely rare.
- Mothers who are breastfeeding may transmit the infection to their infants.
- Sexual transmission has also been reported.

Treatment

- An extended course of antibiotics, namely Rifampicin and Doxycycline, have been effective in treating cases of human Brucellosis.

Prevention

- Advise travelers and educate the public to consume only pasteurized dairy products.
- Boiling milk is a safe alternative to pasteurization.
- Educate farmers, butchers, and others handling animals and carcasses about how to reduce their exposure.
- Exercise care in handling afterbirths and any aborted fetus of livestock, wildlife, and dogs.

Additional Information

Consult the Ohio Department of Agriculture (see below) for advice on vaccinating and testing livestock in Ohio.

All information is general in nature and is not intended to be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice. For more information please call the Columbus Health Department at 645-1474.

Link: <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/901%3A1-5>

(This is the Ohio Administrative code for Animal Industry describing Brucellosis test.)

Franklin County



Board of Health

Report Disease With Ease - 24 hours a day

www.cdrsinfo.com

Columbus and Franklin County Communicable Disease Reporting System
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