

# CDRS

Communicable Disease Reporting System

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET COCCIDIOIDOMYCOSIS

*Coccidiomycosis* is an influenza-like disease with fever that causes respiratory symptoms, but can spread to other organs. The disease is caused by the fungi *Coccidioides immitis* and *Coccidioides posadasii*.

### Symptoms

Forty percent of infected people experience influenza-like symptoms, including

- Fever
- Cough
- Headache
- Rash
- Body ache
- Some people develop chronic lung infection
- 1/1,000 people develop a widespread infection that may affect spinal nerves, soft tissues joints, and/or bone.
- Sixty percent of people may not show any symptoms at all

### Transmission

- The fungi that cause coccidioidomycosis reproduce by airborne spores. A person who inhales the spores may become infected.
- The disease does not spread from human to human

### Treatment

- Skin or blood tests are used to diagnose the disease
- Most cases recover without treatment
- Five percent of cases do benefit from anti-fungal medications that are prescribed by a healthcare provider

### Prevention

- Limit exposure to dust in the Southwest United States, Mexico, Central and South America (where the disease-causing fungi are usually found).

### Additional Information

*Coccidioidomycosis* may also be called coccidioidal granuloma, desert fever, desert rheumatism, Posada's disease, San Joaquin fever, or Valley fever.

**All information is general in nature and is not intended to be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.**

Franklin County



Board of Health

Report Disease With Ease - 24 hours a day

[www.cdinfo.com](http://www.cdinfo.com)

Columbus and Franklin County Communicable Disease Reporting System

c/o The Franklin County Board of Health, 280 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 719-8888 ♦ (614) 719-8890 fax ♦ [cdrs@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:cdrs@franklincountyohio.gov) - email

