

CDRS

Communicable Disease Reporting System

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET **HISTOPLASMOSIS**

Histoplasmosis is a disease caused by the fungus *Histoplasma capsulatum*. Most people with histoplasmosis have no symptoms. However, histoplasma can cause acute or chronic lung disease and progressive disseminated histoplasmosis affecting a number of organs. It can be fatal if untreated.

Symptoms

- The disease may resemble Influenza and causes a fever which lasts from days to weeks.
- Rash and joint pain may be present, as may chest pain and a dry or nonproductive cough.
- In its more severe form, it is characterized by enlarged liver and spleen, pneumonia, ulcers of the mucus membranes, fever, and total exhaustion or weakness.
- Symptoms may occur within 3-17 days after exposure. The average is 10 days.

Transmission

- Inhalation of the organism when the soil is disturbed by activities that disperse the agent, such as excavating land and demolishing old structures frequented by bats or birds.
- Not transmitted person-to-person.
- Ohio is an endemic area for histoplasmosis

Treatment

- Antifungal drugs are available, if needed.
- Mild disease usually resolves without treatment.

Prevention

- Reduce exposure to dust.
- When working in dusty areas, wear disposable cover apparel and a face mask capable of filtering out particulate matter larger than 1 millimicron.

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.cdrsinfo.com

Columbus and Franklin County Communicable Disease Reporting System

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