

# CDRS

Communicable Disease Reporting System

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET

# LEPROSY

Leprosy also called Hansen Disease, is caused by bacteria that usually infect the skin, but can also affect nerves and the lining, of the nose.

## Symptoms

- Leprosy causes a rash on the trunk or legs, and it may cause skin to become lighter in patches.
- Skin may become thickened, and sometimes there is decreased sensation wherever the rash appears. The rash may be flat or raised, and may even be reddish or copper colored.
- When the lining of the nose is affected, nose bleeds may occur.

## Transmission

- Although the mode of transmission of Hansen's disease remains uncertain, most investigators think that the disease is spread from person to person in respiratory droplets. The disease is not very communicable.

## Treatment

- Treatment for leprosy usually requires multiple antibiotics such as Dapsone, Rifampin and Clofazimine. Other antibiotics such as Clarithromycin, Ofloxacin, Levofloxacin and Minocycline also have excellent antibacterial activity against the bacteria that causes leprosy.
- Once a person with leprosy is treated with antibiotics, he or she is no longer able to transmit the disease to anyone else.

## Support

- Treatment for leprosy is free through the National Hansen's Disease Programs. This organization can be contacted at 1-800-642-2477, and their website is <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/nhdhp/default.htm>.

**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

