

CDRS

Communicable Disease Reporting System

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET **PSITTACOSIS**

Psittacosis is a disease caused by a microorganism called *Chlamydia psittaci*. It is usually transmitted to humans from birds.

Symptoms

- The symptoms are fever, headache, chills and sometimes pneumonia. Some people may show a mild flu-like illness.
- People usually show symptoms 5-14 days after exposure.

Transmission

- Psittacosis is usually spread by inhaling dust from feathers, dried secretions or dried droppings from bird cages and by handling infected birds.
- The sources of the bacteria that cause Psittacosis are wild and pet birds, including poultry.
- The most common birds that carry the bacteria are parrots, parakeets, macaws, cockatiels, pigeons, and doves.
- Human to human spread has not been proven.

Treatment

- Antibiotic treatment is required for 10-14 days after the patient's temperature returns to normal.

Prevention

- If the infected bird is a pet, it is important to take the bird to a veterinarian in order to be tested and treated.
- Aviaries should be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.
- Infected birds should be kept separately from uninfected birds.
- Treated birds can be reinfected with the bacteria, so treated birds should be kept away from untreated birds.
- The Ohio Department of Agriculture should be notified when the source is a poultry farm or a poultry processing plant.
- Exposed birds should be treated with antibiotics. The treatment does not always clear the infection, but helps to protect people caring for the birds.

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

Columbus and Franklin County Communicable Disease Reporting System

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