

## Fact Sheet

# ANTHRAX: What You Need to Know

### What Is Anthrax?

Anthrax is a serious disease caused by bacteria that forms spores. Anthrax can make you sick by getting into your skin, lungs or digestive system. It can be deadly if untreated.

### How Do You Get Anthrax?

People can get anthrax from touching or eating an infected animal or breathing in spores from an infected animal. Anthrax can also be used as a weapon. In 2001, 22 people got sick when anthrax was put into the mail.

You cannot catch anthrax from another person or spread it to others.

### What Happens If I Get Anthrax?

People usually get sick within 1 to 7 days of exposure to anthrax, but if it is in your lungs it may take 42 days before you get sick.

It may cause your skin to blister or have sores. You may have a sore throat, fever, headache, cough and breathing problems.

You will need to be treated with medicine because anthrax can cause serious illness or death.

### How Is Anthrax Treated?

There is no way to test for anthrax before you get sick.

Antibiotics are used to treat all types of anthrax.

Health-care workers will give you medicine (doxycycline or ciprofloxacin). This medicine can help prevent an anthrax infection, even if you don't feel sick.

You may have to take this medicine for 60 days. The medicine can cause nausea, diarrhea, headache or a yeast infection (women only), but it is important that you keep taking the medicine until it is gone.

Children have to take different amounts of the medicine than adults. Health-care workers have information on how to give medicine to children and babies.

## 疾病常识

### 炭疽病基本常识

#### 什么是炭疽病？

炭疽病是细菌导致的严重疾病，此类细菌会形成菌孢。炭疽病可透过皮肤、肺或消化系统进入人体，导致发病。如果不加治疗，可致死亡。

#### 炭疽病是如何感染的？

触摸或食用感染炭疽病的动物，或吸入感染炭疽病的动物释放的菌孢，均会感染炭疽病。炭疽病亦可用作生物武器。2001年，美国有22人因收到炭疽邮件而感染炭疽病。

炭疽病不会发生人际传染。

#### 得了炭疽病会有什么后果？

接触炭疽病后，一般在1至7天内发病，如果是肺部感染炭疽病，则可能42天才发病。可导致皮肤起水疱或溃疡。可能有喉咙疼、发烧、头痛、咳嗽和呼吸困难等症状。

炭疽病可导致严重疾病或死亡，必须接受药物治疗。

#### 如何治疗炭疽病？

炭疽病发病前无法化验检查。

抗生素用于治疗各类炭疽病。

医疗人员会让您服用药物（doxycycline或ciprofloxacin）。此类药物可协助预防感染炭疽病，即使您未感到不适。

此药物须服用60天。药物可导致恶心、腹泻、头痛或酵母菌感染（仅妇女），但必须坚持服完药物。

儿童的使用剂量与成年人不同。医疗人员会说明如何给儿童和婴儿服用药物。