



## Q-FEVER

- What is Q-FEVER?** Q-Fever is a bacterial disease that occurs in grazing livestock and other animals. Q-Fever usually occurs among people who work with livestock, but only half of those infected show signs of illness. The bacteria are resistant to heat, drying, and many disinfectants, allowing it to survive for long periods.
- Transmission:** Person-to-person transmission of Q-Fever is rare. Infection in humans usually occurs by inhaling these organisms from airborne barnyard dust contaminated by dried birth products and waster matter of infected herd animals. The bacteria are excreted in milk, urine, and feces of infected animals.
- Signs and symptoms:** Most people become ill two to three weeks after exposure with sudden onset of high fever (up to 105 degrees F) severe headache, body aches, fatigue, confusion, sore throat, chills, sweats, cough, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, and chest pain. Fever usually lasts one to two weeks. Inflammation of the heart muscle can occur, usually in people who have had rheumatic fever. Not all people exposed to the bacteria will show symptoms or become ill.
- Treatment:** Antibiotics are used to treat Q-Fever.
- Diagnosis:** Laboratory testing.
- Prevention:** No vaccine is available in the United States. Most cases in the U.S. involve veterinarians, meat processing plant workers, dairy workers, livestock farmers, and researchers at facilities housing sheep. Prevention and control efforts are directed primarily toward these groups and environments.
- What can you do?** Use only pasteurized milk and dairy products. Restrict access to infected livestock and properly dispose of livestock birth products. Properly sanitize laboratory equipment and clothing that had contact with infected animals.
- Whom do you call?** Division of Public Health, Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology: 1-888-295-5156.
- Additional information:** Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: [www.cdc.gov/qfever/](http://www.cdc.gov/qfever/).

**Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Section**  
**24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156**  
**Contact Number: 302-223-2999**

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