

## **Public Information**

## **GLANDERS**

**What is GLANDERS?** Glanders is a bacterial disease usually found in horses,

donkeys, and mules. Glanders in humans usually occurs among laboratory workers. Glanders can take three forms:

localized infection in one part of the body, respiratory

infection, or bloodstream infection (sepsis).

**Transmission:** Person-to-person transmission is rare. It is transmitted to

people by direct contact with infected animals or infective

secretions.

**Signs and Symptoms:** Symptoms depend on the route of infection. General

symptoms include fever, muscle aches, chest pain, muscle

tightness, and headache.

<u>Localized</u>: If there is a cut or scratch in the skin, a skin ulcer will develop within 1-5 days at the site where the bacteria entered the body. Swollen lymph nodes may also develop. Infections involving the eyes, nose, and respiratory tract will cause increased mucous production from the affected sites. <u>Respiratory</u>: pneumonia, plus general symptoms above. Bloodstream: worsening symptoms as above; usually fatal

within 7-10 days.

**Treatment:** Glanders is treated with antibiotics.

**Diagnosis:** Laboratory testing.

**Prevention:** No vaccine is available.

What can you do? Proper care and maintenance of livestock can prevent

occurrence in animals that spread the disease.

Whom do you call? Division of Public Health, Office of Infectious Disease

Epidemiology: 1-888-295-5156.

**For more information:** Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

website: www.cdc.gov/glanders/.